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STARS AND STRIPES®

Volume 73, No. 161B

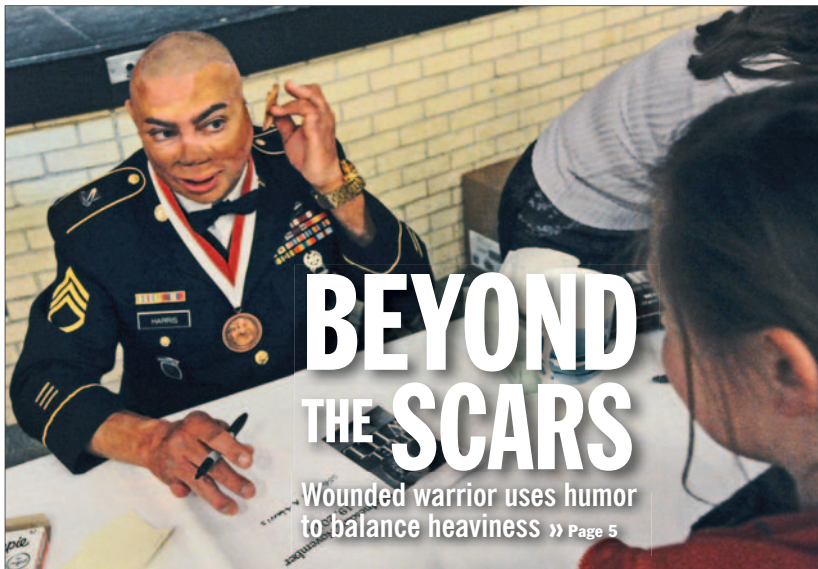
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MIDEAST EDITION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2014

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Free to Deployed Areas



BEYOND THE SCARS

Wounded warrior uses humor to balance heaviness » Page 5

RONALD W. ERDRICH, THE ABILENE (TEXAS) REPORTER-NEWS/AP

Shilo Harris shows his prosthetic ear to a student at Colorado High School in Colorado City, Texas. Harris, 40, is an Army veteran who was wounded when his Humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device near Yusufiyah, Iraq, in 2007.

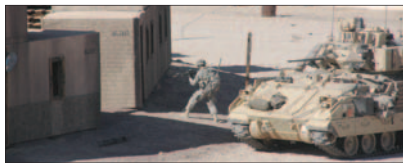
Army pivots to 'full-spectrum' training

By JON HARPER

Stars and Stripes

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — After a decade of counterinsurgency, the Army is trying to retrain the force to fight other types of conflicts. But budget cuts threaten that effort.

Sequestration is looming at a time when Pentagon officials are concerned that the Army's conventional warfighting skills have atrophied while the force has been fighting insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan. That decay would be problematic if the U.S. military had to carry out an operation similar to Desert Storm, which saw American ground forces pound Saddam Hussein's



Jon Harper/Stars and Stripes

A soldier from the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, aims his rifle next to a Bradley Fighting Vehicle during an exercise at the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

enormous army into submission in the early 1990s. Deputy secretary of defense Bob Work explained the

problem earlier this month at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank.

He said that prior to 2001, officers and noncommissioned officers who had been in the Army for 10 years would have completed "numerous" full-spectrum combat training center rotations prior to assuming key leadership roles. But many of the junior company and field-grade leaders of today don't have that experience because they've been focused on counterinsurgency.

Getting the Army fully trained for a wide range of operations can't happen overnight, officials say.

"We're in a time problem as much as we are in a resource problem now because of the [training] hole we're in," Work said.

SEE ARMY ON PAGE 4

Obama to blame for DOD chief shuffle?

Insiders say tense dynamic between president, Pentagon hampering secretary search

By JULIE PACE
AND ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — On a trip to Afghanistan during President Barack Obama's first term, Defense Secretary Robert Gates was stunned to find a telephone line at the military's special operations headquarters that linked directly back to a top White House national security official.

"I had them tear it out while I was standing there," Gates said earlier this month as he recounted his discovery. "I told the commanders, 'If you get a call from the White House, you tell them to go hell and call me.'"

To Gates, the phone in Kabul came to symbolize Obama's efforts to micromanage the Pentagon and centralize decision-making in the White House. That criticism later would be echoed publicly and pointedly by Gates' successor, Leon Panetta.

The president's third Pentagon chief, Chuck Hagel, was picked partly because he was thought to be more deferential to Obama's close circle of White House advisers. But over time, Hagel also grew frustrated with what he saw as the West Wing's insularity.

There have been similar gripes from other Cabinet officials, but the friction between the White House and the Pentagon has been particularly pronounced during Obama's six years in office. That dynamic already appears to be affecting the president's ability to find a replacement for Hagel, who resigned Monday under pressure from Obama.

SEE SHUFFLE ON PAGE 2

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I served my country. I spent four years in the Army, and I feel like that's not what I served my country for. I served my country for justice for everyone."

—Ebony Tyse, 26, of St. Louis, as National Guard and police vehicles roamed the street in front of her during protests in Ferguson, Mo.

See story on Page 8

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MIDEAST

Shuffle: Pentagon sees Obama as suspicious of military

FROM FRONT PAGE

Within hours, former Pentagon official Michele Flournoy called Obama to take herself out of consideration, even though she was widely seen as his top choice and would have been the first woman to hold the post.

Flournoy officially cited family concerns, but people close to her say she also had reservations about being restrained like Hagel and would perhaps wait to see if she could get the job if another Democrat — namely Hillary Rodham Clinton — won the presidency in 2016.

Obama's eventual nominee will join a national security team that is under intense criticism for its response to the rise of the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq. The president has authorized airstrikes in both countries and has sent about 3,000 U.S. troops to train and assist Iraqi security forces.

He has resisted sending American troops into ground combat and has insisted the military campaign is not designed to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose 3½-year assault on civilians helped create the chaos that allowed the Islamic State group to thrive.

The foreign policy landscape looks far different from what Obama envisioned when he ran for the White House and pledged to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Obama has been seen in the Pentagon as being overly suspicious of the military and its inclination to use force to address problems. To some in the Pentagon, the president's approach to the military seems particularly cool and detached when compared with that of his predecessor, Republican George W. Bush, who was more eager to embrace the military and to accept its judgments.

Stephen Biddle, an occasional adviser to U.S. combat commanders, said the White House has fallen victim to "groupthink" and is distrustful of advice or perspectives that challenge its own.

"That's a bad policy-development design," said Biddle, a political science professor at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs.

Several White House, defense and other administration officials discussed the relationship be-



SUSAN WALSH/AP

President Barack Obama reaches to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel following an announcement of Hagel's resignation Monday in the State Dining Room of the White House. The friction between the president and the Pentagon has been particularly pronounced during his six years in office, and seems to be affecting his ability to find a replacement for Hagel.

tween the president and the Pentagon on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to do so publicly.

On foreign policy decision-making, Obama relies in particular on national security adviser Susan Rice and chief of staff Denis McDonough. Secretary of State John Kerry has managed to carve out some areas of influence, particularly on Iranian nuclear negotiations. Some Pentagon officials say they have seen an increasingly close relationship between Obama and Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

But at the Pentagon, senior officials say there is growing frustration with a lack of policy direction and clarity from the White House that has hampered the military's ability to quickly respond to fast-moving events around the world. Policy recommendations from the Pentagon are often discussed exhaustively in White House meetings that can bog down, delaying decisions and sometimes resulting in conclusions that remain vague.

During the past year, officials said the Pentagon leadership was particularly baffled by the White House's slow deliberations on Russia's actions in Ukraine and the rise of Islamic State militants.

Earlier this fall, officials said, Hagel sent Rice a memo on Syria reflecting the views of military commanders who feel Obama's strategy lacks cohesion and has included too many one-off decisions, such as resupplying Kurdish forces fighting the militants in the Syrian town of Kobani. Hagel and military commanders were particularly concerned about a lack of clarity over Obama's position toward Assad.

On Ukraine, officials say Hagel pressed the White House to speed up the protracted debate over providing even nonlethal assistance to Ukrainian forces and to look for new options when the support the administration did provide proved ineffective in stopping Russian-backed rebels.

Obama's advisers deny Hagel was ousted because he challenged the president. They cast

the former Republican senator as the wrong fit for a job in which he never appeared comfortable. The aides also defended the White House's lengthy internal deliberations, saying Obama's decision-making process reflects the complexity of the problems.

Hagel's ouster has spurred a flurry of suggestions from foreign policy experts for how Obama can repair his relationship with the Pentagon, from ousting his West Wing aides to revamping the White House's National Security Council, which has ballooned from a few dozen staffers in the 1970s to more than 400.

But Gates, the former Pentagon chief who voiced his frustrations during a forum this month at the Ronald Reagan presidential library in California, suggested the real issue rested with the president, himself.

"When a president wants highly centralized control in the White House at the degree of micromanagement that I'm describing, that's not bureaucratic, that's political," he said.

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STARS AND STRIPES

MILITARY

Taliban raid on Kabul guesthouse kills 2

By RAHIM FAIEZ
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban fighters armed with suicide bomb vests and assault rifles killed two people, one a foreigner, during a raid on a guesthouse near the Afghan parliament Saturday, authorities said, the latest attack in the capital as NATO troops withdraw from the country.

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi did not identify the dead, saying only that they

worked for a foreign aid group he declined to name. Security forces rescued six Afghans held hostage by the attackers during the assault, he said.

After storming the building in a residential suburb in west Kabul, one of the attackers detonated an explosives-packed suicide vest, and security forces shot dead the other two, Sediqi and Kabul police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said.

The Taliban claimed the attack in a statement, saying they target-

ed "a secret missionary center."

One witness, Samir Noorzai, said Europeans who worked as consultants for the Afghan government lived there. Others said it was the home of Christian missionaries.

The Taliban have waged a series of large-scale attacks on Kabul in recent days, including an assault in the upscale Wazir Akbar Khan district, home to embassies and international agencies, and the suicide bombing of

a British embassy vehicle. There have been about a dozen attacks in the past two weeks alone.

Meanwhile on Saturday, Taliban attacks killed at least 11 Afghan soldiers in southern Helmand province, including one on a base once held by NATO forces, said Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor.

The Taliban has been launching assaults since Thursday on the base, once known as Camp Bastion until the British handed it over last month.

Camp Bastion also once held Camp Leatherneck, a U.S. Marine base in the volatile southern province.

Zwak said the Bastion attack killed at least six Afghan soldiers and 20 Taliban fighters; 10 Afghan soldiers were wounded. An assault there Friday killed five soldiers and wounded seven.

The other attack, a suicide bombing targeting a military base in the province's Sangin district, killed five soldiers and wounded eight, he said.

AF expanded bomber training zone detailed

By MATTHEW BROWN
The Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Any given location across a sprawling area of the Northern Plains could see up to nine low-altitude overflights by military aircraft annually under a proposed expansion of an Air Force bomber training area detailed Friday.

Supersonic flights in the area would be limited to 10 days a year during large-scale exercises involving roughly 20 aircraft. Civilian flights would face sharp restrictions during those times.

Details of the Air Force plan emerged with the release of a long-awaited, 502-page environmental study of a proposal in the works since 2006.

The Powder River training area now spans about 8,300 square miles and can accommodate only one or two bombers at a time.

A much larger area that could be occupied by 20 bombers, fighters and tankers at once would create a more realistic environment where crews "would more readily train as they will fight," the Air Force study concluded.

The Air Force wants to triple the size of its Powder River Training Complex to roughly 28,000 square miles. That's a larger area than West Virginia and would include airspace over Montana, Wyoming

and the Dakotas.

It would be used by B-1 and B-52 bombers and could save the military \$23 million a year by reducing the number of sorties now being sent to Utah and Nevada for

exercises, officials said.

Friday's study release kicked off a 30-day waiting period until a final decision is made by the Air Force. Federal Aviation Administration approval also is needed.

Elected officials from South Dakota have been supportive of the proposal.

Republican U.S. Sen. John Thune has described the expansion as vital to keeping open Ellsworth Air Force Base, near Rapid City.

It has faced strong resistance from Montana's elected leaders and state aviation officials. They say more bombers — conducting maneuvers and dropping fuels and chaff as they roar overhead

28K

The approximate number of square miles the Air Force's expanded Powder River Training Complex would comprise, roughly triple its current size.



VAID GHIRDA/AP

A B-1 bomber with the U.S.-led coalition circles above the Syrian town of Kobani. An expanded Air Force training zone in the U.S. Northern Plains would accommodate B-1 and B-52 bombers.

— would disrupt rural communities and scare livestock.

They also argued that it could interfere with civil air traffic and hurt businesses in the area of the expansion.

The release of the study leaves the Air Force poised to push ahead despite such lingering objections.

Montana Aeronautics Division Administrator Debbie Alke said her office was reviewing the document. North Dakota officials also have raised concerns about potential impacts on civilian flights, as many as 78 a day of which could be impacted when the large-scale exercises are conducted, shutting down the entire airspace, the Air Force said.

The Air Force on Friday also

listed steps taken to address public concerns since a draft of the environmental study came out in 2010. Those include adjustments to the training area's boundaries and avoiding low-altitude flights over some Indian reservations.

The Air Force acknowledged that the low-altitude flights and loud sonic booms have the potential to startle ranchers, recreationists and American Indians living on four reservations in the region. It said those disruptions largely would be sporadic and temporary.

Alee Lockman, a spokeswoman for Steve Daines, a Montana Republican and U.S. senator-elect, said there still was time for the plan to be altered.

"This is one of the last steps in

the process. It's a significant step," Lockman said. "We will continue putting pressure on the Air Force to make changes before any expansion actually moves forward."

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., said in a statement that the expansion will help increase training and readiness for the Air Force. She said it needs to strike a balance between national security and economic and safety concerns.

A B-1B from Ellsworth Air Force Base crashed in August of 2013 in southeastern Montana near Broadus — within the existing bounds of the training area. Four crewmembers ejected from the high-speed aircraft and survived.

Future Pentagon contracts to require firms to meet tougher standards

By CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is for the first time requiring private security contractors to meet a series of certifiable standards that govern how their businesses are run and how they operate overseas, a move that some say is long overdue.

Sparked in part by the fatal shooting of 14 unarmed Iraqis in 2007 by Blackwater Worldwide guards, the effort gives the Pentagon the ability to more easily hold accountable companies that go rogue and is designed to improve the performance and image of

an industry often seen as run by mercenaries.

In future contracts, the Pentagon will require companies to meet dozens of standards in areas including thoroughly vetting and training employees; safeguarding weapons and ammunition; abiding by local laws; protecting human rights; and outlining rules for use of force.

Because the standards will become part of the contracts, the Defense Department then has recourse if things go wrong, officials said.

If there is an incident, "you can take action immediately and noti-

fy the company you're canceling the contract," Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary Gary Motesek said in an interview. Contracting officers "have the tools and standards to measure against, so there's a better level of positive control than we've ever had before."

But Christopher Shays, the former Connecticut congressman who was the co-chair of the Commission on Wartime Contracting, said that the ability to hold private contractors to account should have been put in place far earlier.

"It's just sad that it takes so long

to do the obvious," he said. "It's taken far too long, embarrassing, really long. ... Candidly, it's just one more kind of example where people begin to lack faith in their government."

Another problem, officials said, is that while the Pentagon has adopted the standards, the State Department has not. That is troubling, they said, given that the State Department relies on private security contractors in large numbers and was the agency Blackwater was working for at the time of the shooting in Iraq.

In a statement, the State Department said Congress required that the standards apply only

to the Pentagon. But the State Department "is looking at incorporating them into its future security contract opportunities," including when it awards a major contract next year to protect diplomatic personnel around the world.

Motesek and others said developing the standards was a massive and time-consuming undertaking that involved more than 200 people from 24 countries, with representatives of governments around the world, the industry and human rights organizations.

Given the complexity of the effort, it was completed quite quickly, they said.

MILITARY



PHOTOS BY JON HARPER/Stars and Stripes

Above: Local actors pretend to be an angry mob during an exercise at the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., on Nov. 16. Below: A U.S. soldier from the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division clears an alleyway while an "insurgent" lurks ahead.

Army: Facility that provides soldiers critical training already feeling impact of budget cuts

FROM FRONT PAGE

He said that "under the best of circumstances" the Army won't achieve full-spectrum readiness goals until 2020; and if sequestration returns in 2016, that will push things back another three to five years.

Outside experts share his concerns.

"For the most part you need to see ... brigade or certainly division-size maneuver and fighting operations [in the counterinsurgency wars]. The Army needs to get prepared for that in the future if [it's going to be] fighting an adversary that is able to aggregate and coordinate its forces," said Paul Scharre, a former Army Ranger who is now the director of the 20YV Warfare Initiative at the Center for a New American Security.

At the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., soldiers are getting ready for that kind of fight.

Fort Irwin is massive, occupying a swath of desert the size of Rhode Island. And the NTC is the largest advanced training center of its kind.

Ten brigades — about 50,000

soldiers — rotate through there each year. But the training regimen is a lot different today than it was just a couple years ago, according to Gen. Ted Martin, because troops are no being readied to go to Afghanistan.

About 5,000 soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Carson, Colo., are at the facility going through "Decisive Action" Readiness Training, which lasts 14 days. When the Iron Brigade leaves, it will have engaged in four conventional battles against an invading army; taking on enemy tanks, artillery, infantry and aircraft.

The enemy forces consist of personnel from the 11th Army Cavalry Regiment.

The threat scenarios are overlapping so that troops learn how to deal with "hybrid" warfare — which Pentagon officials see as the future of armed conflict. For example, during one of the conventional fights, the soldiers involved have to wear chemical suits after the enemy force launches a chemical weapons attack.

Soldiers also come under cyberattack, and they're forced to defend their networks and contin-

ue to operate when their systems go down.

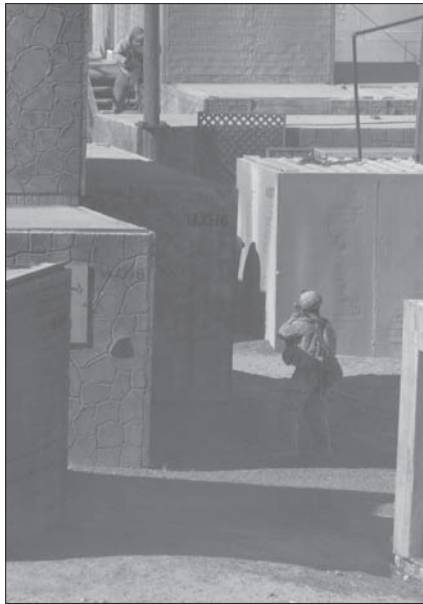
"We are not here to fight the Warsaw Pact," Martin, the commander of NTC, told reporters Nov. 16. "We're way beyond that. What we're doing here is ... replicating what we believe to be the complex environment our soldiers may be forced into in the future."

But NTC has already felt the effects of budget cuts. The center typically hosts 10 rotations of about 5,000 soldiers annually. Martin said that sequestration had a "horrendous impact" on his command last year, and forced him to cancel four training rotations.

He fears that budget reductions will leave troops unprepared to fight the wars of the future.

"It's essential that we have the ability to train them to the very highest levels like we're doing here," he said. "If I lose sleep at night, it's with the uncertainty about will we be able to sustain this level of training and ... will the Army be able to provide combat-ready units if we're called."

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MILITARY

Balancing heaviness with humor

Scarred veteran shares his experiences with students

By RONALD W. ERDRICH
Abilene (Texas) Reporter-News

COLORADO CITY, Texas — To put people at ease, Shilo Harris pulls his ears off. It's a small joke; a bit of humor to break the ice and allow those he meets the chance to see past the scars.

Harris, 40, is a former Army soldier who was injured when his Humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device — a home-made bomb — near Yusufiyah, Iraq, on Feb. 19, 2007. The blast killed three men in the vehicle, all friends, and Harris received burns over much of his body.

He details the events leading up to the attack and his recovery in a book he wrote with Robin Overby Cox, "Steel Will: My Journey

through Hell to Become the Man I Was Meant to Be." Over the last month, Harris has shared his story across the Big Country.

The ears are purely cosmetic. Harris lost 60 percent of his hearing on one side and 40 percent on the other. The latex lobes attach magnetically to small posts embedded above holes where his ears used to be.

It's a little startling to see him casually yank one off and hand it to someone.

"They're good wind blocks," he quipped. "If my ears get cold, I just put them in my pocket."

A Texas native, he spent part of his childhood in Coleman. His mother, Teresa Bentley, still lives there.

Harris spoke recently to students at Colorado High School in a program sponsored by a number

of civic organizations, local businesses and private citizens; the Abilene Reporter-News reported. Students from Loraine, Colorado City and Westbrook attended, along with veterans from those communities.

"Like many other veterans these days, I joined after 9/11/2001," Harris said.

He felt it was his duty to serve his community and nation after the terrorist attack.

"We lost almost 4,000 lives in a matter of hours," Harris said.

Military service isn't required to serve your country, he said, but doing so elevates people and brings serious responsibilities.

"It is the greatest honor there is, because when you sign your name on that line you're saying, 'I'm willing to die for what I believe in,'" he told the audience.

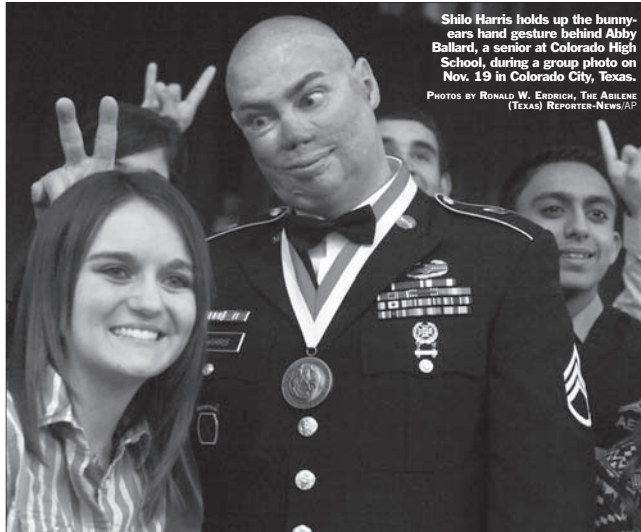
This was not lost on sophomore Kayla Browne. That afternoon, Harris visited her English class; the students were reading his book as group assignment. Her brother, Austin, had just finished Army boot camp.

"If we were to have a war, I don't want anything to happen to him. Just knowing it's possible, it kind of hurts me," she said.

Browne's voice began to choke up. Seeing Harris and recalling photographs, war movies and combat video, she couldn't stop herself from seeing her big brother in the same light.

"Because anything is possible, and it's just not a good thought," she said, tears beginning to fall from her cheeks.

"I put his face on theirs, and I can't think of anything positive about it because I just don't want anything to happen to him. [Harris'] story is really inspiring because if Austin were to get injured, he has someone to look up to."



Shilo Harris holds up the bunny-ears hand gesture behind Abby Ballard, a senior at Colorado High School, during a group photo on Nov. 19 in Colorado City, Texas.

PHOTOS BY RONALD W. ERDRICH, THE ABILENE (TEXAS) REPORTER-NEWS/AP

He didn't mean to be a motivational speaker. Harris said he sort of walked into it.

"I was lost in the hospital one day. I was pretty medicated at the time. I walked in a door and I was literally on stage," he recalled.

It lingers on a harrowing statistic he quoted throughout his visit, a national suicide rate of 22 veterans per day. But the purpose extends even beyond that.

Harris' message at its core boils down to one thing: Every-

life, little achievable goals, each and every day, to have a greater outcome.

It's where the name of the book we comes from, and it's a lesson anyone can learn.

"I had to have the will to get up

'I don't see the scars. I see the person that I am and the person that I'm meant to be. ... I'm not Opie and this ain't "The Andy Griffith Show." I'm Shilo Harris. I was raised hard, I served my country, I ate a lot of dirt and I had a heck of a recovery.'

A group of men were sitting there. Whether they were doctors or chaplains, Harris didn't know.

"They said, 'Hey, you're our guest speaker today.' I'm looking around and I'm like, 'Uh, I guess I can be,'" he said. "I was kind of joking, but they pulled up a chair and said, 'Have a seat.'"

It's a must for Harris to balance the heaviness of his story with humor. Joking with visitors keeps the ice cracking, heading off any discomfort felt by his skin grafts or the remains of the seven fingers left on his hands.

When posing for group photos, he's the first to make a funny face or throw the bunny-ears hand sign behind whoever's nearest.

He's long since made peace with seeing in the mirror a face different from the one he grew up with.

"I don't see the scars," he said. "I see the person that I am and the person that I'm meant to be."

There is a purpose in these programs. It reaches beyond patriotism, recognizing veterans or even selling books.

one has the strength to be more than they are. It takes faith and it takes courage, and it demands companionship. No one is alone, nor should they think they are.

He has his wife, Kathryn, and their five children to lean on. There have been hard times, to be sure. But with just a little faith, somehow the sun always manages to pierce dark clouds.

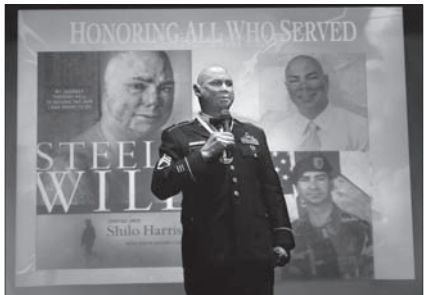
"This recovery has been full of blessings. If you had asked me in 2007 if I would be here like this, I would have told you that you were crazy," he said during the assembly. "It took little changes in my

and do it each and every day," he said.

He wants the book to be a resource for veterans. When he and Cox began writing it, he was clear from the start that being Christian doesn't equate with weakness.

"I'm not Opie and this ain't 'The Andy Griffith Show.' I'm Shilo Harris. I was raised hard. I served my country, I ate a lot of dirt and I had a heck of a recovery," he said.

"I take the stand that you can be a bad ass and be a Christian all at the same time."



Harris speaks during the community presentation.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Islamic State attacks Kobani from Turkey

By BASSEM MROUE
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — The Islamic State group launched an attack Saturday on the Syrian border town of Kobani from Turkey, a Kurdish official and activists said, although Turkey denied that the fighters had used its territory for the raid.

The assault began when a suicide bomber driving an armored vehicle detonated his explosives on the border crossing between Kobani and Turkey, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Nawaf Khairi, a spokesman for Syria's powerful Kurdish Democratic Union Party.

The Islamic State group "used to attack the town from three

sides," Khalil said. "Today, they are attacking from four sides."

Turkey, while previously backing the Syrian rebels fighting to topple President Bashar Assad in that country's civil war, has been hesitant to aid them in Kobani because it fears that could stoke Kurdish ambitions for an independent state.

A Turkish government statement on Saturday confirmed that one of the suicide attacks involved a bomb-loaded vehicle that detonated on the Syrian side of the border. But it denied that the vehicle had crossed into Kobani through Turkey, which would be a first for the extremist fighters.

"Claims that the vehicle reached the border gate by crossing through Turkish soil are a lie," read the statement released

from the government press office at the border town of Suruc. "Contrary to certain claims, no Turkish official has made any statement claiming that the bomb-loaded vehicle had crossed in from Turkey."

"The security forces who are on alert in the border region have ... taken all necessary measures," the statement continued.

Associated Press journalists saw thick, black smoke rise over Kobani during the attack. The sound of heavy gunfire echoed through the surrounding hills as armored vehicles took up positions on the border. The Observatory said heavy fighting also took place southwest of the town, where the Islamic State group brought in tanks to reinforce their fighters.

Mustafa Bali, a Kobani-based

activist, said by telephone that Islamic State group fighters have taken positions in the grain silos on the Turkish side of the border and from there are launching attacks toward the border crossing point. He added that the U.S.-led coalition launched an airstrike Saturday morning on the eastern side of the town.

"It is now clear that Turkey is openly cooperating with Daesh," Bali said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State.

The Islamic State group began its Kobani offensive in mid-September, capturing parts of the town as well as dozens of nearby villages. The town later became the focus of airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition against the militants.

Kurdish fighters slowly have

been advancing in Kobani since late October, when dozens of well-armed Iraqi peshmarga fighters joined fellow Syrian Kurds in the battles. The fighting has killed hundreds of fighters on both sides over the past two months.

The Observatory said Saturday the latest fighting killed at least eight Kurdish fighters and 17 jihadis.

The Islamic State group has declared a self-styled Islamic caliphate in areas under its control in Iraq and Syria, governing it according to its violent interpretation of Shariah law. The group has carried out mass killings targeting government security forces, ethnic minorities and others against it.

In embattled town, devastation mixes with optimism

The Associated Press

KOBANI, Syria — Blocks of low-rise buildings with hollow facades, shattered concrete, streets strewn with rubble and overturned, crumpled remains of cars and trucks. Such is the landscape in Kobani, where the sounds of rifle and mortar fire resonate all day long in fighting between Islamic State extremists and the Syrian town's Kurdish defenders.

Kurdish fighters peek through sand-bagged positions, firing at suspected militant positions. Female fighters in trenches move quickly behind sheets strung up to block the view of snipers. Foreign jets circle overhead.

An exclusive report shot by a videojournalist inside Kobani offered a rare, in-depth glimpse of the horrendous destruction that more than two months of fighting has inflicted on the Kurdish town in northern Syria by the Turkish border.

There, Kurdish fighters backed by small numbers of Iraqi peshmarga forces and Syrian rebels are locked in what they see as an existential battle against the militants, who swept into their town in mid-September as part of a summer blitz after the Islamic State group overran large parts of Syria and neighboring Iraq.

Helped by more than 270 airstrikes from a U.S.-led coalition and an American airdrop of weapons, the Kurds have succeeded in halting the militants' advance and now believe that a corner has been turned.

Several fighters with the YPG, the main Kurdish fighting force, spoke confidently of a coming victory. Jamil Marzuka, a senior commander, said the fighting has "entered a new phase" in the last week.

"We can tell everyone, not just those on the front lines, that we are drawing up the necessary tactics and plans to liberate the city," he said.

A YPG fighter, who identified himself only by his first name,



Pozul, said only small pockets of militants remain. Still, he said he and other fighters must remain wary as they move around because Islamic State snipers lurk amid the ruins and the militants have booby-trapped buildings they left behind.

"They are scattered so as to give us the impression that there are a lot of them, but there are not," he said.

The Kurds' claims of imminent victory may be overly ambitious. But the AP's reporting has found that the Islamic State group's drive has at least been blunted. Hundreds of militants have been killed, most of them by airstrikes.

Zardasht Kobani, 26, a YPG unit commander, has been fighting day and night for weeks.



Often he and his fellow fighters were short on ammunition and sleep, he said. Now he feels an important victory at is at hand. The

battle of Kobani has had a crucial symbolism for both sides.

He said the militants have failed in Kobani and are looking

for a way out.

"But IS knows that escaping from Kobani will spell their downfall," he said.

Above: A Kurdish People's Protection Units fighter shows the extent of the damage from a truck bomb Nov. 19 in Kobani, Syria.

Left: Fighters from the Free Syrian Army, left, and the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), join forces to fight Islamic State group militants in Kobani.

PHOTOS BY
JANE SIMMON/AP

WAR ON TERRORISM



Fighters with the Free Syrian Army — one of the rebel groups backed by the United States — fire at Syrian army soldiers during a fierce firefight in Daraa al-Balad, Syria, in March 2013.

US to heavily screen Syrian rebels in training program

By MISSY RYAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military will subject Syrian rebels taking part in a new training program to psychological evaluations, biometrics checks and stress tests under a screening plan that goes well beyond the steps the United States normally takes to vet foreign soldiers, a sign of the risks the Obama administration faces as it expands support for armed groups in Syria.

Officials said the screening program, developed chiefly by U.S. Central Command, would rely on what was described as a “common core” of screening protocols, including running trainees’ names through U.S. and foreign intelligence databases, collecting biometric data, and, when possible, seeking information from fighters’ home communities. Rebel commanders would be subject to additional screening.

“In the special operations community, we have a pretty long history of vetting and screening surrogate forces that we’ve worked with,” said an official at CENTCOM, who like others spoke on condition of anonymity to describe planning.

“But this is unique to Syria, because we’re going to work with folks that we won’t accompany once we employ them,” he said. “So vetting and screening becomes even more important.”

The effort to develop a layered vetting process is an attempt to mitigate the hazards associated with deepening U.S. involvement in Syria’s chaotic battlefield, where a dizzying array of armed groups have been accused of abuses against soldiers and civilians alike. While the Obama administration has sought since

2011 to foster a competent force to fight Syrian troops and now the Islamic State, U.S. officials remain wary even of fighters whose objectives currently align with their own.

In particular, officials want to lessen the risk that U.S.-trained fighters sent back into Syria to combat the Islamic State will use their weapons on civilians or — like the Afghan mujahideen fighters that Washington backed in the 1980s — later turn against the United States and its allies.

‘We’re taking it extremely seriously,’

senior U.S. defense official

plan, which has not been finalized, so-called moderate fighters would be evaluated on an ongoing basis. Successful participants would gradually attain access to higher levels of training and weaponry, and fighters found to be wanting would be dismissed from the program.

“We’re taking it extremely seriously,” a senior U.S. defense official said. He said fighters would also be educated about laws of armed conflict.

The military screening plan came together after the Obama administration determined that the Syria training program would not be subject to what are known as the Leahy laws, which typically govern U.S. security assistance to foreign forces.

Under those laws, a small office at the State Department works with U.S. embassies overseas to ensure recipients of State and Defense Department security assistance aren’t linked to major human rights abuses. But Leahy vetting, which relies

on intelligence and information such as accounts from civil society or media, is limited in scope and focused on human rights. It disqualifies candidates only 1 to 2 percent of the time, and it can take as little as 10 minutes to vet one person.

Because the Syrian rebels will not be part of a state-sponsored force, the laws will not apply, U.S. officials said. Instead, the alternate screening plan was developed under Army Maj. Gen. Michael Nagata, commander of CENTCOM’s special operations component.

The screening for the Syrian fighters is also aimed at ensuring that militants aligned with the Islamic State or other extremist groups don’t infiltrate U.S.-sponsored training.

Dafna Rand, a former White House official and Middle East expert, said the U.S. military, and Centcom in particular, had developed expertise in vetting irregular foreign fighters over the last decade. Before its 2011 withdrawal from Iraq, the U.S. military supported tribal fighters who rose up to fight against al-Qaida. In Afghanistan, the United States has partnered with elite or paramilitary Afghan forces to go after militants.

At the same time, a number of American servicemembers have been killed by Afghans in military uniforms in recent years in a reminder of the risks associated with working with foreign forces.

“There can never be 100 percent assurances, but they’re taking great pains” to vet trainees, Rand said.

Another defense official said that formal vetting would not begin until Congress votes to provide longer-term support for the training program.

Syria, US trade barbs for attacks on same city

By HUGH NAYLOR
The Washington Post

BEIRUT — Damascus and Washington traded public jabs after warplanes from both countries carried out independent and lethal air raids last week on a city in eastern Syria that is under the control of the Islamic State group.

Syria’s information minister, Omran al-Zoubi, lashed out at the United States late Thursday, calling allegations of deliberate attacks on civilians by President Bashar Assad’s regime a “fabrication.”

That criticism was expressed in a statement a day earlier by State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki, who was “horrified” by Syrian regime bombardments on Tuesday that killed dozens of people, many of them civilians, in the city of Raqqa.

“The Assad regime’s continued slaughter of Syrian civilians further exposes its callous disregard for human life,” she said.

The Syrian city is the self-declared capital of the Islamic State’s so-called caliphate, and it also has been targeted repeatedly with airstrikes—including on Sunday — by a U.S.-led coalition against the militant group.

The harsh exchange highlights the awkward confluence of interests between Damascus and Washington in fighting the militant Islamist group as the Assad regime batters American-backed rebels in a civil war that has killed some 200,000 people.

In comments published by the Syrian state news agency, SANA, al-Zoubi responded to Psaki’s

remarks by saying that the U.S. should not direct “fabricated accusations” towards the Syrian state.” He said it should instead show “respect for the souls of American victims” of the Islamic State, in an apparent reference to the militant group’s beheading of at least three American citizens.

“The Syrian Arab Army does not target civilians and will not do so,” al-Zoubi added.

The Obama administration appears to have softened its opposition to Assad as it steers the international coalition, which began launching air raids in September against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

While the coalition also plans to train Assad’s so-called moderate opposition, many say its airstrikes have aided Syrian government forces, which have struggled to put down the nearly 4-year-old rebellion.

American warplanes bombed the outskirts of Raqqa on Sunday, and the regime attacks that followed on Tuesday were part of an attempt to capitalize on the anti-Islamic State sympathies espoused by the U.S.-led coalition, said Imad Salamey, professor of international relations at the Beirut-based Lebanese American University.

“This is all quite awkward for Washington,” he said. “It definitely seems like the Syrian regime has craftily manipulated the coalition agenda to help its own agenda.”

He and others point to the dramatically escalated air raids across the country that the regime has carried out since the coalition bombing began.

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NATION

15 arrested as protests return to Ferguson

By PHILLIP LUCAS
AND TOM FOREMAN JR.
The Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — Disrupting commerce, transit and traffic became focal points for demonstrators across the country days after the announcement that a grand jury in Ferguson, Mo., declined to indict the police officer who fatally shot 18-year-old Michael Brown.

As Small Business Saturday approached, numerous storefronts in the Ferguson area had their windows covered with plywood with messages painted across many of them letting neighbors know that the shops are still open. Demonstrators temporarily shut down three large malls in suburban St. Louis on Black Friday, one of the busiest shopping days of the year, and then marched in front of the Ferguson police department to protest the grand jury's decision.

Several stores lowered their security doors or locked entrances as at least 200 protesters sprawled onto the floor while chanting, "Stop shopping and join the movement," at the Galleria mall in Richmond Heights, a few miles south of Ferguson, where Officer Darren Wilson fatally shot Brown, who was unarmed, in August.

The action prompted authorities to close the mall for about an hour Friday afternoon, while a similar protest of about 50 people had the same effect at West County Mall in nearby Des Peres. And several dozen demonstrators spurred a temporary closure of the Chesterfield Mall.

Later Friday night, a group of about 100 protesters marched down South Florissant Road in front of the city's police and fire departments, chanting, blocking traffic and stopping in front of some businesses.

"I served my country. I spent four years in the Army, and I feel like that's not what I served my country for," said Ebony Tyse, 26, of St. Louis, as National Guard trucks and police cruisers roamed the street in front of her. "I served my country for justice for everyone. Not because of what color, what age, what gender or anything," she said.

Fifteen people were arrested, according to Missouri Department of Public Safety spokesman Mike O'Connell. He said charges would include peace disturbance and impeding the flow of traffic, and two people would be charged with resisting arrest and one with assault.

Monday night's announcement that Wilson, who is white, wouldn't be indicted for fatally shooting Brown, who was black, prompted violent protests that resulted in the burning of about a dozen buildings



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

A protester is taken into custody Friday in Ferguson, Mo., during a demonstration outside the police department.

and some cars. Dozens of people were arrested.

The rallies have been ongoing but have grown more peaceful this week, as protesters turn their attention to disrupting commerce. Elsewhere on Friday, protests in Chicago, New York, Seattle and northern California were among the largest in the country on Black Friday.

Dozens of people in Seattle blocked streets, and police said some protesters also apparently chained doors shut at the nearby Pacific Place shopping center.

In Chicago, about 200 people gathered near the city's popular Magnificent Mile shopping district, where Kristiana Colon, 28, called Friday "a day of awareness and engagement." She's a member of the Let Us Breathe Collective, which has been taking supplies such as gas masks to protesters in Ferguson.

"We want them to think twice before spending that dollar today," she said of shoppers. "As long as black lives are put second to materialism, there will be no peace."

2 officers hurt in Calif. unrest over Ferguson

By KRISTIN J. BENDER
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — A protest march in San Francisco against the police shooting in Ferguson, Mo., turned ugly as demonstrators smashed windows and hurled objects at police, hitting one officer with a brick and another with a bottle. Police responded by making arrests.

The violence occurred about 9:30 p.m. Friday after the protesters had marched through a downtown packed with Black Friday shoppers to protest the Missouri shooting of a black man by a white police officer.

One officer was given stitches at a hospital after being struck in the face by a bottle, Sgt. Monica MacDonald said. Another officer was hit in the chest by a brick.

Police made arrests, but MacDonald said it was too soon to determine how many.

Earlier in the evening, the crowd marched through the heart of the city's shopping district and arrived at Union Square, where police stopped them from disrupting the lighting of a Christmas tree in the popular area.

Some activists screamed at police, while others threw bottles and other objects at the officers, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

The crowd then went to the Mission District, with at least two dozen police vehicles and motorcycles following closely behind.

San Francisco police said in a statement late Friday windows were broken in both Union Square and the Mission District.

Earlier Friday, another group of protesters chained themselves to trains in Oakland and temporarily interrupted Bay Area Rapid Transit service from Oakland to San Francisco.

Austin police: Man fired 100-plus rounds

By JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — A gunman fired more than 100 rounds at downtown buildings in Austin and tried to set the Mexican Consulate ablaze early Friday before he died during a confrontation with police, authorities said.

Some of the targeted buildings are near the popular Sixth Street entertainment district, where bars close at 2 a.m., about the same time the shootings began. Thousands of people are typically on the street at that time, Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo said.

"Many, many rounds were fired in downtown Austin," Ace-

vedo said. "With all the people on the streets, we're very fortunate. I give thanks that no one but the suspect is injured or deceased."

Investigators identified the shooter as Larry McQuilliams, 49, of Austin. Police said he had a criminal record but didn't release details, and said they were still trying to determine a motive.

Mexico's Foreign Relations Department issued a statement expressing "profound concern and condemnation" of the attack, but also said "there is no evidence the shots were exclusively directed at our facility."

Other targeted buildings included Austin police headquar-

ters and the U.S. courthouse.

Acevedo said a sergeant, while holding the reins of two police horses after his patrol, shot the gunman just outside the main entrance to police headquarters. But Acevedo said it's not clear if the shot was fatal or if McQuilliams took his own life.

Officers approached McQuilliams after he had been shot, but noticed cylinders in his vehicle, which was nearby. They also discovered he was wearing a vest they thought may have been rigged to explode. Officers retreated and a bomb squad was called, but it was later determined that the items were not explosive.



LAURA SKELDING, AUSTIN (TEXAS) AMERICAN-STATESMAN/AP

Emergency personnel arrive on the scene after authorities shot and killed a man who they say opened fire downtown early Friday in Austin, Texas.

NATION

Former al-Qaida hostage decries FBI dealings

By NANCY A. YOUSSEF
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The only thing as bad as being tortured for months as a captive of jihadists in Syria was dealing with the U.S. government afterward, according to one former American hostage.

Matt Schrier, 36, a freelance photographer held by extremists for seven months in 2013 until he escaped, has told McClatchy that the bureaucracy he endured upon his return home was a second kind of nightmare following the months of abuse he suffered while he was a hostage.

"I never thought it would get this bad," Schrier said.

The FBI never told his father that he had been kidnapped. It waited six months into his capture to produce a wanted poster, and only after his mother prodded. It allowed jihadist forces to empty his bank account — \$17,000 — with purchases on eBay, even as the government warned hostage families not to pay ransom so as not to run afoul of anti-terrorism laws.

After his escape, the government made him reimburse the State Department \$1,605

for his ticket home just weeks after he arrived in the United States. The psychiatrist assigned to help him readjust canceled five appointments in the first two months. And when he had no means to rent an apartment, FBI victims services recommended New York City homeless shelters.

The FBI declined to comment on the specifics of Schrier's complaints but said in a statement saying, "When an American is detained illegally overseas, the FBI's top priority is ensuring the safe return of that individual."

"To that end," the statement said, "the FBI provides support services to victims and their families, to include help in meeting short-term exigent needs, and shares information about their loved ones that is timely and appropriate."

There is no way to independently confirm Schrier's version of events, and emails he shared with McClatchy make it clear that his relationship with his FBI handlers was, at best, acrimonious. But his telling of his experience is consistent with the anger relatives of other hostages have expressed in interviews with McClatchy when speaking

'The next time the FBI calls me will be the first time.'

Jeffrey Schrier
father of former hostage Matt Schrier

of their interactions with U.S. government officials.

"The next time the FBI calls me will be the first time," said Schrier's father, Jeffrey, 67, who lives in Coconut Creek, outside Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "I thank God my son was able to escape, because if he was waiting for the government to spring him, he would still be waiting in that hellhole."

Spurred by the recent beheadings of three Americans who had been held hostage in Syria by the Islamic State group, the Obama administration earlier this month said it is reviewing the way government agencies handle hostages and their families.

But none of the families of those who have been killed or are still missing have been asked to be a part of the review, which White House spokesman Josh Earnest said had begun in August. Schrier and another

American who was released told McClatchy that they, too, have not been contacted. Some families said the administration has yet to reply to a weeklong request to give their input to the review.

"How can you change a policy where there is not one?" Jeffrey Schrier asked. "If there had been a policy, on what planet would you not notify the kidnapped person's father?"

National Security Council spokesman Alistair Baskley said the White House would have no comment.

Schrier's complaints are a symptom of a bigger problem, the families say — a government approach to retrieving hostages that gets lost among several government agencies, none of which is tasked with doing everything possible to bring an American home.

Students join in assault protest

By SARAH KAPLAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The girl with the mattress leans her navy blue burden against the wall of her statistics classroom, then settles into a chair. The professor, pacing, does a double take when she runs into it, but doesn't say anything. Her classmates barely glance up — they have a test Monday.

Raindrops accumulated during the walk from the student center to the School of Public Affairs building slip down the mattress's plastic, bed-bug-proof coating, puddling on the classroom carpet. The professor begins his lecture.

This girl with a mattress is not the one whose image has been all over magazine covers and Facebook feeds. That girl is Emma Sulkowicz, the Columbia University student and performance artist who has been carrying her extra-long twin dorm mattress around campus since the beginning of the school year to protest the university's response to her alleged sexual assault. The mattress project is Sulkowicz's senior thesis as a visual arts major, one she'll continue as long as the fellow student who she says raped her remains at the school.

This girl is not Emma Sulkowicz, but she is carrying a similar fight. Faith Ferber, a sophomore at American University in Washington, is one of hundreds of students across the country who organized a campus event for the "Carry that Weight Together" National Day of Action on Oct. 29.

The day of action was inspired by Sulkowicz's piece and coordinated by a cadre of college- and national-level organizations: a pair of Columbia student groups aimed at supporting Sulkowicz and changing campus policies on assault, anti-street harassment organization Hollaback! and Rhize, a crowd-funding platform for political and social movements.

And, of course, by people like Ferber: savvy, mostly female student activists who saw Sulkowicz's project — the chord it struck, the attention it has gotten — and thought, "My school needs that."

Ferber first saw a video of Sulkowicz talking with Columbia's student newspaper, the *Daily Spectator*, that made the rounds on Facebook in September. She is a staunch



Kayla Eaton, Cindy Valentin and Faith Ferber take a break from mattress-carrying during American University's "Carry that Weight" event last month in Washington.

activist, someone who has called herself a "passionate feminist" since she was 15 and uses phrases such as "rape culture" and "empowerment" in casual conversation. This summer, Ferber helped organize a petition demanding that university administrators respond to a series of leaked emails in which fraternity members discussed drug and rape-fueled parties.

Ferber is an intern for the university's sexual assault prevention coordinator and a co-founder of Students Against Sexual Violence, a club formed in response to the "Fratgate" incident.

When Ferber heard about the day of action, she volunteered the role to sponsor the event at American University. "It's our first event, so it's a great way to get our name out there," she explained on the day of the event, as she helped lug the mattress back toward the campus student center. "Today is really about awareness and solidarity with survivors. Afterward, we're going to have a general meeting and talk about a call to action."

A call to action?

"Are we going to request a meeting with

the board? Are we going to start a petition?" she asks. "We might come up with a list of demands. ... It depends on what we think is necessary."

It's this attitude that distinguishes what Ferber is doing from Sulkowicz's original project. Sulkowicz's rules of engagement for her piece don't include demands of her university. And although she is one of 23 students who have filed a federal complaint against Columbia alleging violations of Title IX and the Clergy Act, "Carry that Weight" isn't tied to the outcome of that case.

In interviews, Sulkowicz has presented the project primarily as performance art: "Art pieces can include whatever the artist desires, and in this performance art piece, it utilizes elements of protest because I think that it is relevant to my life right now," she told the *Daily Spectator*. "To me, it's an endurance performance art piece."

When Ferber carries a mattress, on the other hand, protest is her primary purpose.

"Obviously, we're here to support Emma and all survivors," Ferber said. "But we wouldn't be having this event if American didn't have a problem, if we didn't see something that needed to be changed."

"What's happening here is unique," said Nato Thompson, chief curator at New York-based public arts organization Creative Time and a frequent writer on the topic of political art. "I can't think of another instance where a work of art has triggered a movement in this way."

Effort to recognize Va. tribe draws ire

By FREDERIC J. FROMMER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Several members of the Congressional Black Caucus are urging the Obama administration to withhold federal recognition of a Virginia Indian tribe because of its history of banning intermarriage between blacks and whites.

Last January, the Interior Department proposed recognizing the Pamunkey tribe in southeast Virginia, which would make members eligible for special benefits in education, housing and medical care — and allow the tribe to pursue a casino. A decision on recognition, which would be the first for a Virginia tribe, is due by March 30.

CBC members urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Attorney General Eric Holder to hold off until the Justice Department investigates any discriminatory practices by the tribe. Neither department has responded to the request, made in a Sept. 23 letter, according to a spokeswoman for Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., who signed the letter.

The letter cited a report by the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs that quoted tribal law: "No member of the Pamunkey Indian Tribe shall intermarry with any (sic) Nation except White or Indian under penalty of forfeiting their rights in Town."

The bureau said it had no indication the tribe had changed its ban, but Pamunkey Chief Kevin Brown responded in a letter to the CBC that the ban has been repealed. He said in an interview that the change was made in 2012.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs said the significant number of Pamunkey-Pamunkey marriages and efforts to encourage them helped satisfy a criterion for federal recognition: that a predominant portion of the group comprises a distinct community and is descended as one from historical times to the present.

The black lawmakers called the government findings disturbing. "The BIA seems to justify the discrimination and surprisingly cites this as a reason" to recognize the tribe, their letter said.

Interior Department spokeswoman Nadia Darling said the agency had received the letter and was developing a response.

WORLD

Charges dropped against Mubarak

By HAMZA HENDAWI
The Associated Press

CAIRO — An Egyptian court on Saturday dismissed murder charges against former president Hosni Mubarak in connection with the killing of protesters in the 2011 uprising that ended his nearly three-decade reign.

The ruling marks another major setback for the young activists who spearheaded the Arab Spring-inspired uprising nearly four years ago, many of whom are now in jail or have withdrawn from politics — and will reinforce the perception that Mubarak's autocratic state remains in place, albeit led by a new president, former military chief Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

Saturday's verdict concludes the retrial of Mubarak, his two sons, his security chief and six top security commanders, who were all acquitted. Also on trial was businessman Hussein Salem, a longtime Mubarak friend tried in absentia. He, too, was acquitted.

Mubarak, 86, was also acquitted of corruption charges that he faced along with his sons, Alaa and Gamal.

It was not immediately clear whether Mubarak would now walk free since he is serving a three-year jail term for corruption charges he was convicted of in May. He has been in detention since April 2011, but it is unclear if the past 3½ years will be considered as time served.

Mubarak was convicted and sentenced to life in prison in 2012 on charges related to the killing of protesters, but the verdict was overturned on appeal the following year.

Mubarak has spent virtually all the time since he has been detained in hospitals due to his poor health. On Saturday, he was brought to the defendants' cage on a gurney. He wore dark glasses, a navy blue tie and a matching cardigan.

Nearly 900 protesters were killed in the 198-day uprising that ended when Mubarak stepped down, handing over power to the military. The trial, however, was concerned only with the killing of 239 protesters, whose names were cited in the charges sheet.

Succeeding him, Mahmoud al-Rashidi made clear that the dismissal of the charges did not absolve Mubarak of the corruption and "feebleness" of the latter years of his 29-year rule. However, al-Rashidi said Mubarak, like any other human, erred at times and suggested that his old age should have spared him a criminal trial.



GREGORIO BORGIA/AP

Pope Francis visits Hagia Sofia, the Byzantine church-turned-mosque that is now a museum, in Istanbul on Saturday. His head bowed and hands clasped in front of him, the pope stood for two minutes of silent prayer facing east inside one of Istanbul's most important religious sites.

In Turkey, pope calls for peace as Mideast Christians flee violence

By SELCAN HACAAGLU
AND ONUR ANT
Bloomberg News

ANKARA, Turkey — Pope Francis, the spiritual leader of the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics, called for peace in Syria and Iraq, saying that "gross violations" against minorities by Islamist militants aren't diminishing.

"Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to leave their homes" to be "faithful to their religion," the pope said during a joint news conference with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara at the start of a three-day visit.

The international community

has a "moral obligation" to help shelter refugees from the conflict, he said, while Turkey also has a responsibility when it comes to "identifying viable paths for peace and progress."

Turkey is home to around 1.6 million refugees, including Christians and members of other minorities who fled months of turmoil triggered by Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

The papal visit is the first to Turkey since 2006 and comes at time of heightened concerns among the country's own dwindling Christian population.

The European Union has demanded that Turkey, the bloc's only Muslim candidate, expand the rights of religious minori-

ties. Turkey doesn't recognize Istanbul-based Patriarch Bartholomew I as leader of the world's 300 million Orthodox Christians and has rejected European Union demands to reopen a closed seminary that had been used to train Orthodox priests.

The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate has been based in Istanbul for about 17 centuries. About 120,000 Christians are in Turkey today.

Authorities in Turkey's capital have tightened security, deploying 2,700 police officers on the streets, according to Anadolu Agency.

Francis is scheduled to meet members of the Turkey's Christian community as well as Patriarch Bartholomew.

UN: More than 16K sickened with Ebola

DAKAR, Senegal — More than 16,000 people have been infected with Ebola and nearly 7,000 have died, according to the latest figures from the World Health Organization.

The new death toll, released late Friday by the U.N. agency, represents an increase of more than 1,000 deaths since a report from two days before. Most of the new deaths were recorded in Liberia, but the new toll likely includes deaths that have gone unreported over a significant period of time.

Data from the outbreak has been spotty and slow to come and often death and case tolls see large jumps when backlogs of information are cleared.

Blasts at mosque in Nigeria kill 35 people

KANO, Nigeria — Multiple explosions tore through the central mosque in Nigeria's second-largest city on Friday, killing 35 people, police said.

One hundred and fifty others sustained various degrees of injury in the blasts in the city of Kano, State Deputy Police Commissioner Sanusi Lemu said.

Hundreds had gathered to listen to a sermon in a region terrorized by attacks from the militant group Boko Haram. Witnesses said heavy smoke could be seen billowing in the sky from a long distance away. Immediately after the blasts, hundreds of angry youth took to the streets in riots, throwing stones, brandishing sticks and shouting at security officials.

Bahrain voters go to polls in runoff election

MANAMA, Bahrain — Bahraini voters returned to the polls Saturday for a runoff election being boycotted by the opposition for the tiny island nation's first new parliament since widespread Arab Spring-inspired protests nearly four years ago.

The elections will determine the makeup of the 40-seat lower house of parliament. It follows a first-round vote last weekend, when only six candidates secured an outright majority to claim their seats.

Bahrain is a Western ally that has been the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet and is part of the U.S.-led coalition striking the Islamic State group.

15 dead in attack in China's Xinjiang region

BEIJING — An attack in China's troubled western Xinjiang region left 15 people dead and 14 injured, state media reported Saturday, the latest in a wave of ethnic violence there that has claimed dozens of lives over the past year.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported that the attack took place in a "food street" in 14th Shache county, the same region where state media said a series of attacks in July left 96 people dead. The Tianshan news portal said the assailants in Friday's attack wielded explosives, knives and at least one vehicle. Xinhua reported that 11 of the 15 people killed were assailants.

From The Associated Press

WORLD



A handler and his dog, Venom, are seen from a helicopter in a training exercise at an academy run by the Paramount Group near Rustenburg, South Africa.

ANIMALS HELPING ANIMALS

Academy deploys attack dogs to save South Africa's rhinos

The Associated Press

RUSTENBURG, South Africa — Venom and Killer. These are members of a furry breed of anti-poaching operatives, dogs that can detect a whiff of hidden rhino horn in a suspect's vehicle or follow the spoor of armed poachers in South Africa's besieged wildlife parks.

Dogs are a small part of an increasingly desperate struggle to curb poaching in Africa, where tens of thousands of elephants have been slaughtered in recent years to meet a surging appetite for ivory in Asia, primarily China. In South Africa, poachers have killed more than 1,000 rhinos this year, surpassing the 2013 record. Countries and conservationists are trying more robust patrols and surveillance, community programs and other tactics against criminal gangs that sometimes benefit from official corruption.

As the conflict rages, elite dogs and handlers are drilling at an anti-poaching academy northwest of Johannesburg. The course prepares K9 units to find firearms or contraband, track suspects in the undergrowth and abseil in harnesses from helicopters in pursuit of poachers. Dogs and handlers learn to trust each other and fine-tune a relationship balancing control and aggression.

"One needs to be the dominant male. Hopefully, it's the guy and not the dog," said Marius van Heerden, 28, a handler who lives, works and sleeps with Venom, a Belgian Malinois whose breed is known for

endurance and athleticism and has been used by the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan. Venom probably got his name from biting trainers as a puppy, van Heerden said.

South Africa-based Paramount Group, which makes military vehicles and other equipment, runs the academy, which has about 50 adult dogs and the same number of puppies.

On a recent afternoon, several rangers from the central African country of Gabon lunged at each other in combat exercises at the academy.

"We need to focus our efforts where the need is greatest," said Paramount chairman Ivor Ichikowitz, citing the slaughter of much of Gabon's elephant population. He said poaching was more than a conservation issue because it funds insurgencies and other illegal activities across Africa.

Rhino horn fetches enormous sums on the illegal market. It is made of keratin, a substance coveted by some as healing agent despite a lack of evidence that it can cure.

Conservationists are using dogs elsewhere in Africa.

The bond between dog and ranger is vital, said Henry Holsthyzen, a South African trainer, recalling a student's mistake.

"He gave his dog to someone else to go and put in the kennels," Holsthyzen said. "And my immediate question was, 'Would you have another person sleep with your wife?'"



Dogs attack "rhino poachers" in simulations at the Paramount Group's South African academy. The course prepares canine units to find firearms or contraband, track suspects in the undergrowth and abseil in harnesses from helicopters in pursuit of poachers.

DENIS FARRELL/AP

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Thursday through Sunday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 4502, APO AP 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 4502, APO AP 96338-5002.

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OPINION

Obama needs to be more partisan

By RUSSELL MUIRHEAD

Every great president since George Washington has also been a great partisan.

President Obama, however, has been reluctant to present himself as a partisan, much less as the leader of a party. This leaves him vulnerable in the wake of a executive action that could protect about 4 million undocumented immigrants from deportation, allowing his opponents to cast him not as a party leader but a monarch imposing his will on the country.

Obama too often seems to see himself standing apart from both parties. He framed his historic 2008 victory, for instance, in deeply nonpartisan terms, suggesting that, by the force of his example, he could bridge the partisan division of red and blue America. He aspired to an elevated, post-partisan plateau from which partisan conflict looked like a petty and self-defeating distraction from the interests of the nation.

Yet in substance, if not in style, Obama has been partisan, in a good way. The underlying idea of Obama's immigration reform — giving the protection of law to those who contribute to the nation's prosperity through honest work — is not merely his own but is also carried by his party.

Beyond this, Obama's goals in office — extending health care to all, using the fiscal power of the government to support full employment, regulating financial institutions to protect ordinary citizens, leveraging the government's power to buttress civil rights — have defined his party for decades. These goals unite him with the presidencies of Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter, Lyndon Johnson, John F. Kennedy, Harry Truman and the founder of the modern Democratic Party, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

In the most noble image of politics, parties need not be necessary; if only people

had all the facts, they would all agree. But politics is not a science — it is a contest. The program advanced by Obama (and his party) is controversial. Facts are necessary to persuade people. But a fight, and a party leader who attends to that fight, are also required.

This does not simply mean scheming for electoral advantage, though such strategizing cannot be completely avoided by any party leader. It means rallying those who are already disposed to agree by invoking the great goals and purposes that define the party.

Some would like to think that those goals are nonpartisan; that they are shared by all Americans. But even with the benefit of all available information, all Americans will not agree. There are reasons — real, philosophical reasons — for those often petty disagreements between the parties.

Clearly, in Obama's view — and that of his party — there is a public philosophy that enables citizens to stand together to share risks that the most vulnerable cannot successfully shoulder individually. It is what allows the people to act together to solve problems. This is not a policy, though it leads to particular policies, such as immigration reform. It is a public philosophy.

Presidents need to convey the public philosophy that defines their presidencies and their parties. When presidents succeed, they leave behind not only discrete policies but also energetic parties that carry on the work. The success of the Affordable Care Act, for instance, ultimately will depend not on Obama, but on his party.

The last president to succeed in this way was Ronald Reagan. Republicans



Obama

still invoke Reagan's authority and how to many of his policies, such as lower taxes and trimming the scope of government. By contrast, Clinton's distinctive policies (such as welfare reform) and signature slogans ("The era of big government is over") do not give direction to Democrats today — and didn't really speak for Democrats even at the time. Rather, they reflect the strategy he adopted after Democrats lost the House in 1994 of "triangulating" against his party and neutralizing the Republican opposition by giving it proposals it could not resist.

In his Nov. 20 speech on immigration, Obama described his plan as aligned with the sentiments of bipartisan majorities in the House and the Senate. Although such rhetoric may have been irresistible, a bipartisan strategy betrays the party on which the ultimate success of Obama's policies will depend. For his policies to endure, Obama will have to succeed in the role that to this point he has disdained: leader of his party.

Today, leaders of both parties are no doubt already strategizing about how to blame the other side for the likely legislative dysfunction of the next two years.

This is the sort of low partisanship that Obama has always considered beneath him and his office. He's right — it is. What his party needs from him are not petty partisan machinations but a potent articulation of its ideals and goals. If he can describe the Democratic Party to itself and invigorate Democrats' sense of their mission, he will succeed at investing his policies with the enduring support they will need after his second term is over. What we need from our presidents is not less partisanship but better partisanship.

Russell Muirhead, a professor of government at Dartmouth College, wrote for The Washington Post.

West should encourage Ukraine's EU hopes

By LEONID BERSHIDSKY

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko intends to prepare his country for European Union and NATO membership within six years. Some of his fellow East Europeans are already members of both organizations will actively encourage that ambition, while leaders of NATO and the EU will do their best to rain on Poroshenko's parade. I think the East European attitude has rather more merit.

At first glance, six years is an awfully short time for Ukraine to prepare for membership in the European clubs for nation-states. Economically, the country is a wreck — lacking international reserves, almost devoid of globally competitive businesses, poor in exportable natural resources and still run by corrupt, bungling politicians. For months, Ukraine's fiercest advocates have been calling for radical deregulation, to little effect.

Militarily, Ukraine is a mess, too. In June, Poroshenko vowed to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine within a week. In August, the Ukrainian army and ragtag volunteer battalions were trounced by a small contingent of Russian airborne troops, forcing Kiev to accept a humiliating and shaky cease-fire with the pro-Russia rebels.

The EU needs Ukraine as much as it needs another Greece, and NATO might as well admit Georgia, with a similar history of fighting Russia. And Poroshenko's insistence that he has a six-year plan to meet EU and NATO membership requirements sounds improbable. Yet miracles

happen, and Ukraine certainly is due for one after missing every chance in 23 years of independence.

The leaders of some post-Soviet countries, having already won membership, clearly felt it would be wrong to dampen Poroshenko's enthusiasm to give it a try. If he doesn't, Ukraine will remain stuck in limbo between Europe and Russia. Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė's response, expressed at a joint press conference with Poroshenko, was encouraging: "You need to work, you have to do a lot of homework, it's not an easy process. Why should you? Because any country that makes the effort and carries out reforms will meet the criteria to be a NATO member."

Grybauskaitė, however, is an outlier within the EU. She recently called Russia a "criminal NATO," to which Moscow replied with an undeclared customs blockade of Lithuania. Core EU and NATO members are wary of such radical confrontation, which is why they don't particularly want Ukraine to lay a miracle on their doorstep and force them to cope with it.

I see partnership relations between Ukraine and NATO, but no membership. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier recently told Der Spiegel. He added: "It makes little sense today to speculate on Ukrainian membership in the EU in the distant future."

What, however, if Grybauskaitė and those who agree with her in Poland, Latvia and Estonia are right? Sally Painter, a veteran U.S. foreign policy consultant, argued in a recent article that the West should not

be too strict when dealing with aspiring alliance members from the Russian sphere of influence.

When it comes to needed reforms, Western leaders have too often insisted on the perfect to the detriment of the good, weakening the leaders they should support in the process. To prevent the further unraveling of pro-Europe forces, policy makers must support the progress that has already been made — and the local leaders who are driving it.

While I think accepting demagoguery in place of true economic and political reforms would be transparently hypocritical and unfair to countries that have made a genuine effort to tear themselves from their Communist past, Painter has a point. If the West keeps telling Ukraine that its efforts are futile, if it keeps frowning snobbishly as Ukraine stumbles and sometimes backslides, Russian President Vladimir Putin will ultimately have his way, and see the country forget its European aspirations.

In a way, that's what happened to Russia in the 1990s. Who knows, it might have had more will to reform itself — as Germany did after World War II — had it not missed out a version of the Marshall Plan instead of looking on with wary skepticism. Perhaps that error can be rectified with Ukraine, turning it into an example for Russians who now see no alternative to Putin. It would be a risky strategy, but the only morally acceptable one if Western leaders truly reject Putin appeasement, as they say they do.

Leonid Bershidsky is a Bloomberg View contributor.

OPINION

Why does Islamic State provoke the West?

BY AKI PERITZ AND ROBIN SIMCOX

No more beheading videos, al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri advised Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in a 2005 letter.

"I say to you: that we are in a battle, and that more than half of this battle is taking place in the battlefield of the media," al-Zawahiri wrote. He was concerned then about al-Qaida in Iraq losing support among Muslims and damaging the al-Qaida brand. But his advice applies just as well to al-Zarqawi's successors, the leaders of the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, who are allowing their brutality to undermine their interests.

More than anything, the Islamic State wants to re-establish a caliphate in the Middle East. To do that, it needs to solidify its grip on the territory it controls in Iraq and Syria, to liberate regional adversaries at bay and to swell the number of supporters who aspire to live under its fanatical interpretation of Islamic law. In his first public sermon as "caliph" in July, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi implored "Muslims everywhere" to "rush ... to your state ... whoever is capable of performing hijrah [emigration] to the Islamic State, then let him do so."

One of the surest ways for the group to consolidate its gains is to avoid public brutality — toward Muslims, but also toward Western powers. Don't murder Westerners, especially American and British nationals, and don't commit crimes against U.S. and British installations. Don't carry out terrorist operations against Europe and North Africa. Don't have the English-speaking fighters threaten the West or its leaders. The United States, Britain and their allies have little appetite for open-ended war, especially against a group that, no matter how terrible and fanatical, has not directly attacked their homelands. The threat of regional destabilization, or the persecution of minority populations such as the Yazidis, may prompt some Western reaction. But if the Islamic State doesn't directly incite the West, it stands a good chance of outlasting Western interest in fighting it.

Yet the Islamic State can't seem to resist its inclinations toward brutality. A Nov. 16 video showing the severed head of American humanitarian aid worker Peter Kassig, along with the beheadings of more than a dozen Syrian soldiers, was

a barbaric threat. "To Obama, the dog of Rome," a masked killer says, "today we are slaughtering the soldiers of Bashar, and tomorrow we will be slaughtering your soldiers. And, with Allah's permission, we will break this final and last crusade, and the Islamic State will soon, like your puppet David Cameron said, begin to slaughter your people in your streets."

The warning was no doubt felt among the forces of Syrian President Bashar Assad, who watched the killing of their comrades in high definition.

The video also may help the Islamic State somewhat with recruitment, as the earlier videos documenting the killing of two Americans and two Britons seemed to. This time, there seems to have been a deliberate effort to demonstrate the group's international appeal — British and French nationals have been identified among the Islamic State fighters in the video.

However, a far larger constituency is horrified and deterred by the Islamic State's public-and-casual displays of brutality. Islamic leaders worldwide, moderate and radical alike, have spoken out against the group. In September, Saudi Arabia's clerical establishment issued a fatwa declaring terrorism a capital crime. In August, the Muslim Council of Britain condemned the Islamic State's "psycho-pathic violence," and the grand mufti of Egypt's Al-Azhar Mosque said it was "tarnishing [Islam's] image as well as shedding blood and spreading corruption." And Yusuf al-Qaradawi, a conservative Muslim cleric with deep links to the Muslim Brotherhood (and who implored Sunnis to go to Syria to fight in the first place), stated in July that the declaration of a new caliphate was "void under sharia." Even hard-core jihadist theologians, such as Abu Qatada and Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, have publicly condemned the Islamic State. The lack of support among even ultra-radical Muslims is significant, because as Bernard Haykel, a professor of Near Eastern studies at Princeton, has noted, caliphs have traditionally been selected in consultation with all Muslim scholars.

Meanwhile, rather than deter outside intervention, the Islamic State's bloodthirstiness has ensured that the spotlight falls on its activities more than those of any other jihadist group, galvanizing the American



COURTESY OF THE KASSIG FAMILY/AP

Peter Kassig stands in front of a truck filled with supplies for Syrian refugees in this undated photo. A video released Nov. 16 showed the severed head of the American aid worker.

and British publics against it. Shortly before the beheadings of Americans James Foley in August and Steven Sotloff in September, 52 percent of Americans approved of airstrikes against the Islamic State. As of late October, that number had risen to 76 percent. Although a CNN poll found that 45 percent of Americans support sending ground troops to Iraq or Syria, it also noted that if the Islamic State attacked the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, support for deploying ground troops would be 72 percent. Similarly, in Britain, 37 percent supported military action against the Islamic State as of August. Yet in a poll taken in October after the videotaped beheadings of British nationals David Haines and Alan Henning, 59 percent said they supported British military intervention against the group.

This dramatic shift in public opinion cleared the way for airstrikes, which have in turn made territorial gains more difficult for the Islamic State. Absent coalition efforts, the critical Mosul and Haditha

dams, the Syrian town of Kobani, and Irbil — the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan — all probably would have fallen to the group by now. The current U.S. strategy certainly has its flaws, such as relying on un dependable fighting forces such as the Free Syrian Army and the Iraqi Army to retake territory, but a fully engaged and righteously enraged United States increases the likelihood that Islamic State advances will be reversed.

Why won't the Islamic State protect its interests and refrain from baiting its enemies with brutality? The problem is an ideological one. As al-Zawahiri anticipated in that 2005 letter to al-Zarqawi, "And your response, while true, might be: Why shouldn't we sow terror in the hearts of the Crusaders and their helpers?" Like al-Zarqawi, the Islamic State promotes an apocalyptic prophecy that envisions a final confrontation between Muslims and "unbelievers." The group fought hard to control the Syrian town of Dabiq and named its English-language magazine after it, because it subscribes to the belief that "the area will play a historical role in the battles leading up to the conquests of Constantinople, then Rome." The Kassig video, released from Dabiq, quoted al-Zarqawi's 2004 statement that "the spark has been lit here in Iraq, and its heat will continue to intensify by Allah's permission until it burns the Crusader army in Dabiq."

Such pronouncements seem to be more than propaganda; they appear to reflect the group's true beliefs. We should therefore expect the Islamic State to continue its barbarity and to strike Western targets. If there's any consolation, it's that utopian organizations forged in violence tend to overextend themselves — and precipitate their own destruction.

In the unlikely event that the Islamic State did alter its strategy and stopped antagonizing the West, we should beware letting off the pressure. Insufficient attention to what was happening in Iraq helped bring about the Islamic State's rise. If we are distracted from our fight with ISIS, we will then be the unwitting accomplices to the birth of a terrorist state in the heart of the Middle East.

Aki Peritz, a former CIA counterterrorism analyst, and Robin Simcox, a national security research fellow at the Henry Jackson Society in London, wrote for The Washington Post.

US plan to destroy Islamic State also must target Assad

BY SEN. ROBERT P. CASEY JR.

President Obama made the right decision to review the U.S. strategy against the Islamic State. Two months ago, he laid out a comprehensive strategy for degrading and ultimately defeating the brutal terrorist organization. His administration has started to implement that strategy, making progress through airstrikes, support for local groups ready to combat Islamic State fighters, diplomacy and sanctions enforcement.

However, I am concerned that our strategy lacks two important elements: a recognition that the Assad regime in Syria also must go and a strategy to address the underlying issues that created the space for the Islamic State to emerge and metastasize. As the administration reassesses, I urge the president to incorporate these elements into the strategy.

The Islamic State must be our top focus in the region; it presents the clearest and most pressing threat to our national security interests and those of our partners.

However, I am concerned that the administration has turned its attention away from our previous goal: bringing about the end of the oppressive, violent rule of Bashar Assad. Now is the time for the administration to take a hard look at where this conflict started: in deep-seated grievances against oppressive national governments in Damascus and Baghdad.

More than three years ago, after the Damascus regime's brutal crackdown on peaceful protesters in Hama, I called for Assad to step down. Others, including the president, soon followed. Since then, the scale and viciousness of the regime's attacks against the Syrian people have only multiplied. As the world has focused on the Islamic State, the Syrian regime has continued to rain "barrel bombs" on civilian enclaves and schools — in direct violation of a U.N. Security Council prohibition of such attacks — to torture and brutalize suspected dissenters, to use chlorine gas in attacks and to starve innocent civilians into submission. The regime has survived, in part, because of strong backing in the

United Nations from Russia, which has continued its own aggressive action in its backyard, and weapons and financing from the Iranian regime and its Hezbollah proxies. In all, more than 191,000 Syrian civilians have been killed, according to the United Nations.

In light of this, I disagree with the State Department's decision to rescind funding for a program designed to collect evidence of war crimes in Syria. I hope there will be a day when Assad and his henchmen are held accountable for their crimes. To abandon this goal would be to break faith with our international commitments and would undermine U.S. credibility in the region.

As we have heard administration officials and others say recently: There is no purely military solution to the conflict in Syria. I agree. What good is it to defend a community if the people trapped inside can't access basic services — food, shelter, medical care, police services? The administration's reassessment also offers an opportunity to revisit the non-military components of its strategy. Now is the time

to double down on our efforts to support the moderate, civilian opposition in Syria.

A targeted, strategic investment in helping Syria's farmers, doctors and bureaucrats to administer the basic services especially of a functioning government could help undermine Islamic State control and set the foundation for a stable Syria. For example, helping moderate civilian leaders bypass the terrorist group to secure and deliver food to besieged communities before winter arrives would be a significant first step. A serious effort to bolster the civilian leadership in Iraq — especially in the Kurdish region — could have a similar effect.

It is appropriate and prudent for administration and congressional leaders to debate and reassess our strategy to combat the Islamic State and help stabilize the region. This is a prime opportunity to ensure that our strategy addresses the root causes of this conflict, especially the brutality of the Assad regime.

Sen. Robert P. Casey Jr., D-Pa., wrote for The Washington Post.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman drops cocaine baggie in police station

PA UNIONTOWN — Authorities said a woman being cited for public drunkenness in Pennsylvania accidentally dropped a baggie of crack cocaine on the police station floor.

Uniontown police said Savannah Turachak, 23, of Lemont Furnace, was patted down for weapons but not otherwise searched when she was brought to the station Nov. 19. That's because police were just citing and releasing her.

But police said Turachak returned moments later to report being harassed by someone and, in the process, fluffed her shirt to straighten it out — and the drugs fell out.

Surveillance video shows she tried to pick up the bag but instead left it when three other people walked in. Police found it a short time later and charged her.

Man breaks into home, offers drugs as apology

MT BILLINGS — A Billings man who tried to apologize for breaking into a man's home by offering him some heroin has pleaded guilty to burglary and drug possession charges.

The Billings Gazette reported that Christopher Dayell Bittner, 35, entered his pleas on Tuesday before District Judge Gregory R. Todd. Sentencing is set for Jan. 27.

A man reported he had returned home on Oct. 4 with his young son and found Bittner leaving the residence. The homeowner said Bittner apologized, tried to sell him a guitar and then offered him some heroin.

Bittner was arrested a short time later. Court records say a search of his backpack turned up 31.5 grams of heroin along with items taken from the house.

Driver confesses, lays down after accident

MN ST. PAUL — Authorities said a driver who backed into a couple outside a St. Paul bar didn't wait for police to order him to the ground.

The complaint says Darnell Maurice Cooper, 30, of Minneapolis, told officers: "I am the one you want. I was driving." The St. Paul Pioneer Press reported that he then spontaneously lay down and put his hands in the air.

One victim told police he and his girlfriend were walking home Oct. 12 when they were knocked down by a car with no license plate. The woman, 45, needed emergency surgery for bleeding on the brain, a skull fracture and acute respiratory failure.

Cooper, whose blood alcohol level was 0.15 percent, was charged with criminal vehicular operation.

2 men point laser at state chopper, arrested

TX AMARILLO — Two Amarillo men face up to five-year federal prison terms

THE CENSUS

5K

The number of bottles of Imperial Stout Aged in Bourbon Barrels, a limited edition beer, that sold at the Lakefront Brewery in Milwaukee on Friday. A few people stood outside overnight in the cold, but most arrived early Friday to get a shot the Black Friday beers. The brewery said all 5,000 22-ounce bottles were gone within 3½ hours. Brewery spokesman Matt Krajnak estimated that about 800 people were in line by the time the doors opened at 8 a.m., when it was snowing and about 15 degrees.



STEVE BISSON, SAVANNAH (GA.) MORNING NEWS/AP

Doing the turkey trot

Bobby Deen, dressed as a chef, chases his wife, Claudia, dressed as a turkey, as they approach the finish line in Daffin Park at the 5th Annual United Way Turkey Trot on Thursday in Savannah, Ga. About 1,500 runners and walkers participated in the 4-mile race Thanksgiving morning that raised money for the United Way of the Coastal Empire.

for pointing a hand-held laser at a Texas Department of Public Safety helicopter.

Randall County Jail records show Christopher Anthony Cantrell, 34, was being held Friday pending sentencing in January. Officials said Matthew George Dodgen, 35, remains free pending sentencing.

Both pleaded guilty Wednesday in Amarillo to aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft and to aiding and abetting.

The DPS helicopter was targeted with a green laser while flying over Amarillo before dawn on June 1. The pilot and co-pilot traced the laser's origin to Dodgen and Cantrell as they stood near a van. The helicopter's camera recorded Dodgen and Cantrell driving off.

Amarillo police located the pair and recovered a laser pointer from the vehicle.

Carjacking thwarted by presence of little girls

NE OMAHA — The presence of two little girls may have thwarted a carjacking in Omaha.

Police said a man loaded the two 6-year-olds in the back seat of a car a little after 7 p.m. Thursday and was preparing to drive them away when he was approached by three men. Police said the three men pulled the man away from the running car and one got in behind the wheel and sped off. The two other men ran away.

Police said the man driving the car stopped less than a block away

after noticing the girls. He got out and fled on foot, leaving the girls in the car unharmed.

Wedding ring lost 8 years ago is found

WI VERONA — A man lost his wedding ring while bowling eight years ago. Now he has it back.

Justin Blair was throwing his first ball at Wildcat Lanes in Verona one night when he felt the ring slip off. Dozens of bowlers helped in the search but couldn't find it. His wife, Becky, was upset. They searched again the next day, but no luck.

Earlier this year, WISC-TV reported, Becky Blair heard that a church was taking over the building. Figuring the lanes would be

torn up, she took a shot in the dark and asked the church for help.

Months later, she got an email — they found the ring.

The Blairs had the ring resized immediately.

Man stows stun guns, machete in luggage

NY NEW YORK — Safety officials said they found two stun guns, a machete and other weapons in a man's checked baggage at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said the baggage belonged to a man heading to Dubai, and the items were found by Transportation Safety Administration agents. It said the man has been arrested.

Port Authority police said the Queens man also had starter pistols, pellet guns and boxes of pellets in his luggage.

The man was taken into custody Wednesday. He had been scheduled to travel on a flight leaving at 10:40 a.m.

He was charged with criminal possession of a weapon and was released on a desk appearance ticket.

Driver lucky dog food bags didn't crush him

WA FIFE — Authorities in Washington state said a semitruck driver is lucky he wasn't crushed by 50-pound bags of dog food when he fell asleep at the wheel, crashed into a ditch and spilled the kibble.

Washington State Patrol Trooper Guy Gill said Wednesday that the driver acknowledged he was sleepy and there was no sign he used his brakes before the big rig left Interstate 5 in Fife, about 30 miles south of Seattle.

Gill said the driver was sore but apparently uninjured. He was checked at a hospital as a precaution. Authorities said he will be charged with negligent driving.

The accident happened at about 11:45 p.m. Tuesday, and the highway's northbound lanes were restricted until 5 a.m. while the bags of dog food were cleaned up.

Expectant mom struck by car dies; baby alive

PA PITTSBURGH — Authorities in Pittsburgh said a pregnant woman sitting outside a neighborhood drugstore was struck and killed when an elderly driver trying to park jumped the curb and pinned her against the wall.

Her nearly full-term baby was delivered by cesarean section and remained in critical condition Wednesday night.

Police said Jodie Guthrie, 30, was outside a North Side drugstore Wednesday afternoon when an 88-year-old motorist tried to pull his minivan into a parking space.

Police Commander RaShall Brackney said the driver might have hit the gas instead of the brake. It's not clear if charges will be filed.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE



PHOTOS BY MADELYN HASTINGS/Akron Beacon Journal

A horse named Smokey gives Jeff Murray, a veteran with PTSD, a friendly nuzzle during a Veterans Day program held at Pegasus Farm in Hartville, Ohio, on Nov. 9.

Healing with horses

Veterans with post-traumatic stress find comfort in equestrian program

By MARY BETH
BRECKENRIDGE
Akron Beacon Journal

When Jem Groom first walked through the door at Pegasus Farm near Hartville, Ohio, just the sight of the Christmas decorations on display at the time made him uneasy.

Groom is a veteran who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, stemming from a battlefield incident that happened on a Christmas Eve.

Since that first day, however, his participation in the farm's Veterans' Salute therapeutic equestrian program has helped him heal emotionally, he told participants at a recent veterans event at the farm.

Groom attributed his improvement to both his work with the horses and his interaction with the other veterans in the program, who provide support and camaraderie.

"I still have my moments," he said, "but that's what Pegasus Farm is for, to help us get through those moments."

Each Wednesday afternoon, the Veterans' Salute program of-



Bill and Lynn Flory introduce themselves to a horse named Beau during the Veterans Day program at the farm.

fers veterans the opportunity to interact with horses and participate in riding, carriage driving or unmounted horsemanship. In building those skills, the participants gain confidence and develop trust, explained Tammi Gainer, the farm's equestrian director.

They also learn appropriate ways to respond to challenges. Instead of reacting with anger or frustration to an uncooperative

horse, the veterans learn to take a step back and find a better approach — a technique that carries over to their everyday lives, she said.

Then there's the bond that builds between veterans and horses, a mutually beneficial relationship that participants and farm staff alike find hard to explain.

"These horses, they basically

get to know you like you know them," said Eric McGill, a veteran from Uniontown, Ohio, who has been participating in the program for six or seven years.

"If you have a problem, these horses help. It's someone to talk to, almost like a friend," he said.

The benefits of that relationship were at the heart of "Riding My Way Back" (ridingmywayback.com), a short film that was shown at the recent event. The film tells the story of Aaron Heliker, who suffered traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder during multiple deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and was saved from the brink of suicide by the bond he developed with a therapy horse.

After the film, visitors got the chance to visit some of Pegasus Farm's horses in their stalls.

It didn't take long for Jeff Murray to befriend Smokey, who nuz-

zled the Canton, Ohio, man's face as he gently stroked the horse's neck.

Murray had come to the program because of his fiancée's daughter, 22-year-old Sarah Hawke, who recently resumed riding in a different therapeutic program at Pegasus Farm after five years spent studying at the Ohio State School for the Blind.

But Murray found his own interest piqued.

He grew up on farms, he said, and he's always had an affinity for animals. He's also a veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder, so Veterans' Salute intrigued him.

"They don't tell you you're right or wrong," he said of the horses. "They don't talk back."

Veterans' Salute is free and open to all veterans. Pegasus Farm's website is: pegasusfarm.org. It also has a Facebook page at: facebook.com/PegasusFarm.

'If you have a problem, these horses help. It's someone to talk to, almost like a friend.'

Eric McGill

Veteran from Uniontown, Ohio

MUSIC



Trisha Yearwood

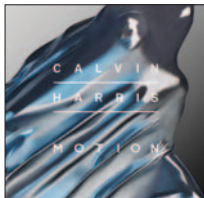
Prizefighter: Hit After Hit
(Gwendolyn/RCA Nashville)

Trisha Yearwood returns with her first new recordings in seven years with "Prizefighter," which combines 10 of her best-known hits ("XXX's and OOO's," "She's In Love With The Boy") with six new songs.

The title track pairs Yearwood with acolyte Kelly Clarkson, and they overcome the song's empowerment cliché through the earth-shaking force of their voices. But the album includes better songs: the tender ballad "I Remember You" allows Yearwood to reveal her talent for conveying emotion through a combination of strength and restraint.

Yearwood's re-emergence hasn't received as much attention as that of her husband, Garth Brooks. But "Prizefighter" proves that her remarkable voice deserves a place among the current generation of country hit-makers.

—Michael McCall
The Associated Press



Calvin Harris

Motion (Columbia)

In eight years, Calvin Harris has gone from underground DJ and bedroom-recorded electro-music maven to steely, theatrical composer and producer for drama queens like Rihanna. Forbes reported he was the highest-earning DJ of 2013 at \$46 million. The interesting thing, then, about "Motion" is that it returns to the subtleties of Harris' earlier work. Yes, "Faith" and "Blame" are laden with over-compressed drums and melodies. But the album also is characterized by smoother tracks with less obvious but still catchy choruses and supple production touches. "Ecstasy" is filled with beautiful EZ-listening touches. "Pray to God" (with Haim) is a delicious row workout. "Outside" and "Together," featuring Ellie Goulding and Gwen Stefani, respectively, are soulful showcases. By moving toward the less obvious, Harris has moved far forward in an already heady career.

A.D. Amorosi
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Wilco in 2004

AP



Unvarnished history

4-disc set lays bare Wilco's ambitions — and faults

By TODD MARTENS
Los Angeles Times

There's a perfunctory, fan-service quality to any longtime band's collection of outtakes, rarities and live performances. Yet this four-disc peek behind the curtain of adventurous Chicago rock outfit Wilco fascinatingly lays bare the band's ambitions — and, often more intriguing, its faults.

It's not often that a band is as open with its rubbish as Wilco is on "Alpha Mike Foxtrot," a collection that's just as forthright with admissions of guilt for leaving a gem off a record. As a result, what could have been a random collection of odds and ends — or worse, a nostalgia grab — isn't so much a look at Wilco's alternate-history past as it is a glimpse at ground the band still has to cover.

Although "Alpha Mike Foxtrot" is curated by the band, it attempts to look back on Wilco's two-decade history as unsparsingly as the 2002 documentary "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart," the Sam Jones-directed film that chronicles the group's acrimonious split from Reprise Records. Some songs offer glimpses at label politics, others rowdy or more experimental makeovers of album cuts, and some just chronicle a train wreck.

Check the self-deprecating way Wilco architect Jeff Tweedy introduces one track and see if it doesn't pique your curiosity: "Pretty painful listening," he writes in the accompanying notes about the little-known original "Let Me Come Home." "I think this may be the sound of untreated depression," he adds.

The bandleader's criticism is on the nose, but that's far from the only head-scratching moment here worthy of deeper investigation.

How about, for instance, the sound of Wilco on the punk rock band "Student Loan Stereo" is less than 2 minutes of hoarse shouting, guitars that sound as if they're overheating and a bottle-breaking grand finale. "Always one of my favorite tracks," confesses Tweedy, and it's not the only time Wilco reveals its lineage from the Replacements, circa 1983 (see the set's sprint-through of early-career country ballad "Passenger Side"). "I think one wonder whether the band's folk-leaning tendencies have occasionally

been misplaced.

If Wilco's punk rock fandom has gone criminally under-represented on its studio albums, it's long been evident in attitude. This is a career that stretches from the alt-country bullheadedness of its 1995 debut, "A.M.," to the celebrated pop deconstruction of 2001's "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" (officially released by Nonesuch in 2002). From there the band veers into the panic-attack guitar wrecks of 2004's "A Ghost Is Born," only to softly land on the gratefully detailed soulfulness of 2007's "Sky Blue Sky."

In an interview around the release of 2011's "The Whole Love," drummer Glenn Kotche said, "We can make straight-up noise. We can make straight-up pop. We can make a folk record. There's so much we have that we haven't even touched upon."

Evidence here suggests that Wilco should continue to explore every off-the-beaten path it encounters. "Unlikely Japan," a companion to "Sky Blue Sky's" "Impossible Germany," dissolves into Kraftwerk-like robotics. An alternate take on "A Ghost Is Born's" melancholic "Hummingbird" pairs a dance groove with alien-like chiming, and "Dark Neon" has a beat that sounds like a digital whip-crack.

As nice as these diversions are, one can take solace in the fact that despite all the lineup changes, Wilco appears to be a band that ultimately trusts its instincts. Although Tweedy admits fan favorites such as the sunny-side-up pop of "A Magazine Called Sunset" should have been album cuts, alternate takes of songs from 1999's colorful, keyboard-soaked "Summerteeth" show a disaster was narrowly avoided.

A Warner Bros. remix of "A Shot in the Arm" takes one of Wilco's most powerful songs and outfits it with all sorts of studio noodling and sound effects, effectively papering over the tune's end-of-relationship lyrical bite.

It's the inclusion of this mistake that perhaps best makes the case for Wilco's importance. Rather than rely on studio trickery or audience pandering, Wilco holds the song itself in highest regard. The rhythms and melody might be malleable toys that can and should be regularly bent out of shape — or downright stripped apart — but Wilco understands the difference between experimentation and over-thinking.



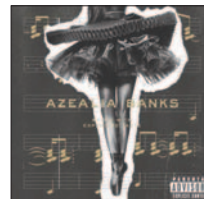
Damien Rice

My Favourite Faded Fantasy (Warner)

Irish singer-songwriter Damien Rice says the creative process behind his third studio album, "My Favourite Faded Fantasy," was so good that he occasionally didn't want it to end. Thankfully it did, because now we get to enjoy a well-crafted work with few holes.

Rice's emotive voice and signature solid guitar work are a known quantity. Those talents are coupled here with carefully optimistic songs about life and love. There's a touch of humor thrown in the mix, but not so much as to detract from pressing matters of the heart. The best moments come with back-to-back tearjerkers "I Don't Want To Change You" and "Colour Me In." Savor every second, because talents as pure as Rice's don't come along every other Tuesday. His musical aim is true and the songwriting is some of the year's best.

—Ron Harris
The Associated Press



Azealia Banks

Broke With Expensive Taste (Caroline)

Harlem rapper Azealia Banks has struggled with highly-publicized album delays and label woes since 2011 when her single "212" became an underground hit. After dozens of false starts, release windows that came and went, a well-received EP and mixtape, Banks was smart to back out of the spotlight and get her debut album, "Broke With Expensive Taste," out the door when the time came. It is a rare first record that not only capitalizes on the artist's hype, but almost doesn't go far enough in exposing the artist's talents. The expansive collection of taste that Banks shows can be disorienting, and it's a challenge to find a solid through-line to connect with. Still, as wildly disparate as it is, with songs culled from a three-year career and innumerable influences, "Broke With Expensive Taste" is a suitable mission statement from an artist hoping to make an impact.

—Colin Fitzgerald
PopMatters.com



Wilco

Alpha Mike Foxtrot:
Rare Tracks 1994-2014 (Nonesuch)

MUSIC

THE SPOTIFY DIVIDE

Taylor Swift, Daniel Ek debate music streaming service: What's a fan to do?

By RANDALL ROBERTS

Los Angeles Times

Taylor Swift and Daniel Ek are more alike than they might like to admit, and their arguing of late is starting to get confusing.

Sure, one is a Pennsylvania-born pop star who just sold a cool 1.3 million copies of her new album, "1989," in the first week, the other a Sweden-born creator of the popular, and divisive, Spotify music streaming service.

She's got a way with lyric and melody that touches the masses. He's accomplished something astonishing in Spotify and the so-called universal jukebox. She's an artist and one of the few in a position to negotiate for what she and her partners consider fair market value for her work. He's a businessman who says he desires fair compensation for artists, seems sincere about it and can't understand why detractors don't see the numbers or the future.

Their ascents are strikingly similar. Both are leaders in their fields and sought success early. Ek, 31, formed his first business at 14 and launched Spotify at 23. At 14, Swift, now 23, moved to Nashville to embark on a career in music.

Now, multimillionaires and in the public eye, Ek and Swift are involved in a high-profile conversation about the availability of her music on his service and are using fans' actions and expectations to further their points. We're stuck in the middle watching Mommy and Daddy fight.

Last month, as Swift was debuting "1989," her record label, Big Machine, pulled her back catalog from Spotify and declined to release the new one to that or any other such service, including Rdio, Rhapsody and Beats Music. Arguing that free-tried services diminished the value of Swift's and others' art and, worse, insulted so-called superfans, Big Machine opted to release the album only as MP3 download and compact disc; it now limits access to her catalog to premium streaming subscribers.

A million-plus copies later, the arguments have continued, and a central question remains: What's the ethical path for a music fan to take?

"We never wanted to embarrass a fan," Scott Borchetta, Swift's manager and Big Machine founder, said as a justification last week with Nikki Sixx on Sixx's podcast. "If this fan went and purchased the record, CD, iTunes, wherever, and then their friends go, 'Why did you pay for it? It's free on Spotify.' We're being completely disrespectful to that superfan who wants to invest."

It's a nimble heartstring to tug, the one that holds Swift's legion of adoring fans as the victims in Ek's equation. But even the most



Taylor Swift
Ira M. Geller/ABC



Daniel Ek
AP

naive of Taylor's army likely understands that Borchetta is gunning to earn a lot more than respect for his client.

Swift hinted at the pending banishment in July, when she published an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal, writing in part, "Piracy, file sharing and streaming have shrunk the numbers of paid album sales drastically, and every artist has handled this blow differently."

Note how she conflated two illegal activities with the legal streaming option. This is an artist who understands the power of language.

"Music is art, and art is important and rare," Swift continued. "Important, rare things are valuable. Valuable things should be paid for. It's my opinion that music should not be free, and my prediction is that individual artists and their labels

She says:

Music is art, and art is important and rare. Important, rare things are valuable. Valuable things should be paid for.

will someday decide what an album's price point is."

On the surface, it's a fair request, although history has shown that for-profit, publicly traded record labels will seek to maximize profit at the expense of fans and nonplatinum artists whenever possible, especially when jobs, bottom lines and first-week sales numbers are involved.

In a response that Spotify published on its blog after Big Machine's action, the company defended its model as it too invoked fans and the plight of the artist. "We believe fans should be able to listen to music wherever and whenever they want, and that artists have an absolute right to be paid for their work and protected from piracy. That's why we pay nearly 70 percent of our revenue back to the music community," it read.

Ek later added in his own blog post that Spotify has earned billions for artists, money that would not have existed in a digital marketplace overrun with illegal file sharing.

"Piracy doesn't pay artists a penny — nothing, zilch, zero," wrote Ek. "Spotify has paid more than \$2 billion to labels, publishers and collecting societies for

He says:

Spotify has paid more than \$2 billion to labels, publishers and collecting societies for distribution to songwriters and recording artists.

distribution to songwriters and recording artists." He added that his company's royalty payments have been for "listening that would have happened with zero or little compensation to artists and songwriters through piracy or practically equivalent services if there was no Spotify." In Swift's case, said Ek, she would have already earned a \$6 million check from his company had she done it the Spotify way.

But that's a tough figure to parse. In a 2013 blog post, the company estimated that the average "per stream" payout to rights holders was between \$0.006 and \$0.0084. It added that average per-stream payout generated by premium subscribers was "considerably higher," though it didn't offer specifics.

As valid arguments for and against the new system fly, here we are, fans stuck in the crossfire. Spotify needs our dollars and allegiance to make its business model work; Swift makes music that many of us want to possess, and she wants to optimize that desire through the honest, fairly priced and ubiquitous — distribution of her music.

Many perhaps feel as I do: In love with the sheer wonder of the so-called universal jukebox and willing to support its growth but also respectful of musical creativity and the geniuses, should-bees and never-rans hoping to earn a living from their art. I want as many of them to succeed as possible. (If only so I can continue to be a part of the system and critique their next album.)

I believe that the \$10-per-month fee that most services charge is too low a price, and despite what Ek would have you believe, that price diminishes the value of music and insults its creators. An expert song maker should be compensated just as an expert cabinetmaker is.

Even at \$29.99 a month, such a service would be a bargain. But it's also not a price that your average kid can afford, and therein lies the rub.

So what's the superfan to do, and how do we behave in what Ek describes as "a new music economy that works for artists in a way the music industry never has before?"

If we're building something that favors artists and advocates compensation, why limit the ways artists can be paid through Spotify? One valid idea making the rounds is to allow for a virtual tip jar that allows me to toss in a buck that goes directly into an act's bank account. I once paid \$15 for a download, just because the artist explained in his pitch that he'd likely spend the money on a nice glass of Scotch. I loved the idea of buying the guy a snifter of Oban.

If I've listened to the new Run the Jewels record 50 times, I'd be fine with an alert suggesting that a gratuity might be in order. I'd also be happy to know when an act is fundraising for a new album or is starting an account to invest in a new modular synthesizer or replacing stolen gear.

It might not be the cure, but such access not only offers the opportunity to be not just a fan but a benefactor and implicitly reinforces the idea that anyone brave enough to make a go of it in the music biz these days deserves an opportunity to shine.

LIFESTYLE

By KIM PALMER
Star Tribune

On a crisp late fall afternoon, David Bedford plucks an apple from a young tree, chomps into the fruit and chews thoughtfully.

"Perfectly good. Not excellent. Not a wow." He tosses the apple to the ground, and renders his verdict with spray paint, a stripe of orange down the trunk that tells the orchard crew to take it down. "You're going to the firewood farm," he tells the tree, with a wry grin.

Bedford, mild-mannered and even-tempered, is ruthless in his quest to produce the next great apple.

"I used to be more benevolent," he said. He'd give a merely OK tree a few more years to "get its act together." But after decades as an apple breeder, Bedford knows what he's looking for. And this apple isn't it. If the tree stays, "I'd have to taste that same mediocre apple again next year," he said. So the tree has to go, to make room for other, more promising varieties at the University of Minnesota's Horticultural Research Center in Excelsior.

As research scientist for the U's apple-breeding program, Bedford, 63, tastes a lot of apples. About 500 to 600 a day, every day, during peak apple season, until his gums hurt.



David Bedford, an apple breeder and research scientist at the University of Minnesota's Horticultural Research Center, samples up to 600 apples a day during peak apple season.

"It's hard on the teeth," he admitted. Even though he spits out the pulp, the acidic juice inflames his mouth to the point that he has to use special toothpaste and fluoride rinses to "cool things down."

"There are only so many bites you can tolerate in a day," he said. "I can do about six hours, then I get sick of them and have to stop. The worst thing is to keep going, like using a tool that's out of calibration."

Bedford's finely honed palate for apples has shaped the choices available at orchards and in grocery stores — in Minnesota, across the country and even across the globe.

"He's one of the elite breeders for apples in the world," said grower John Jacobson, whose Pine Tree Apple Orchard in White Bear Lake and Preston, Minn., is a test site. "One of his strengths is his ability to take an apple, bite it and project what's going to be popular — that texture, that crunch, that juiciness. He's done a fabulous job being able to put all those characteristics together."

Bedford doesn't do the job alone, he's quick to point out, but as part of a team. He and Jim Luby, the horticultural science professor who directs the U's fruit-breeding program, have been collaborating on apple selection for three decades. During their partnership, the program has released six new varieties: Honeycrisp; Zestar!; Snow-Sweet; Minneiska (better known by its brand name, SweetTango); Frostbite and most recently MN55, which has yet to be christened and won't be available commercially for another several years.

PHOTOS BY RENEE JONES SCHNEIDER, STAR TRIBUNE/TNS



How 'bout them apples?

Following Honeycrisp, fruit breeder seeking the next 'rock star' variety

But Bedford is the guy who does the day-to-day cultivating, grafting and cloning and who personally tastes all those mediocre apples in hopes of finding "the next Honeycrisp, or something even better."

"He's our front line, making the decisions about what gets thrown out," said Luby. "And 99 percent gets thrown out."

Of the surviving 1 percent, Honeycrisp is the program's rock star. Introduced in 1991, it's now the sixth largest apple in production in the United States, according to Mark Seetin, director of regulatory and industry affairs for the U.S. Apple Association. Honeycrisp's rapid rise is "extraordinary," Seetin said. "It has exploded in the

last five years. It's a doggone good apple."

The U's apple operation, one of the nation's three major breeding programs, is more than a century old, with 27 apple introductions to its credit, but Honeycrisp put it on the map, in Jacobson's opinion. "When they released Honeycrisp, they hit it out of the park."

Now Honeycrisp and its follow-up releases are major players in the state's apple industry, said Charlie Johnson, president of the Minnesota Apple Growers Association and owner of Whistling Well Farm, near Afton. "If it wasn't for the U's breeding program, we wouldn't be in business. The apples they've developed are really popular with consumers." Honeycrisp, for

example, "has the taste it's supposed to have when it's grown here. Consumers have figured that out and do try to buy from Minnesota growers."

Bedford didn't breed the first Honeycrisp tree; that was done before he came to the U (apple-breeding is a decades-long process). But he and Luby rescued the apple from oblivion.

"Here's a little-known secret of Honeycrisp: It got thrown away by the original breeder — it had some winter injury," Bedford said. That first tree was destroyed, but four clones survived. His first taste of the "explosively crisp" fruit left an indelible memory. "I've tasted millions of apples, and I can still remember my first Honeycrisp and my first SweetTango."

Other apples evoke less fond memories. Bedford isn't shy about trash-talking Red Delicious, the "pathetic" variety he grew up eating in North Carolina.

The big red apples, tough of skin and mealy in texture, dominated the marketplace during his childhood and convinced him he didn't care for apples. He remembers opening his metal lunchbox to "the overpowering smell of an overripe Red Delicious." He couldn't trade it away. "It was the lowest thing on the scale. And the lowest thing on Halloween was getting an apple, a Red Delicious."

But as a student at Wheaton College in



Bedford sprays iodine on an apple to test its ripeness. When judging apples, he says texture and flavor are the two most important things.

Illinois, where he went to study biology — and experience snow — Bedford had an apple epiphany. A friend brought a bushel of Michigan apples and invited Bedford to try one. "It was crisp. That's what I never had. Crisp and juicy. I ate half a bushel myself."

After college, Bedford worked at a nursery for a few years and found plants so fascinating that he decided to go back to school to study horticulture, earning his master's degree from Colorado State. A propagation job opened up at the U, and Bedford took it, intending to stay only a few years. But soon he got the opportunity to do some breeding and found himself hooked. "My universe exploded — there was so much potential. I realized apples could be so much more."

Sampling apples with Bedford is a bit like tasting wine with a sommelier. As he shares each slice, he points out apples that taste like cloves or cherry Life Savers, fruit with floral notes or earthy, herbal undertones.

He looks for 20 characteristics when sizing up apples, but some traits carry more weight than others. "Our priority is to make an apple that's a memorable eating experience," he said. Appearance is secondary. "Texture and flavor are the two most important things."

Bedford has no desire to retire anytime soon. "The intrigue, that last cross you made. It keeps you coming back," he said. "We are nowhere near reaching the limit of how far we can go."

So he hopes to keep breeding apples — "as long as I'm biologically alive," he said. Then he smiles. "If an apple a day keeps the doctor away, I'll live forever."



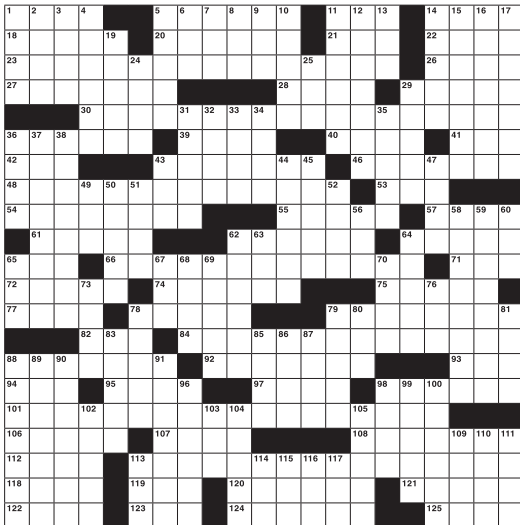
CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

SURROUND SOUND

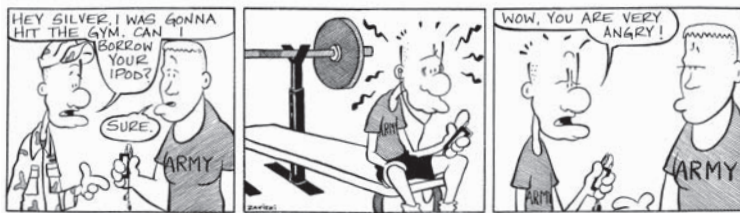
BY PATRICK BERRY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
- 1 Canned food you don't eat
- 5 "Black Swan" director Aronofsky
- 11 Compete in the Winter Games, say
- 14 Lose strength
- 18 Whistle prompters
- 20 Become invalid
- 21 Org. that prepares tables
- 22 Norway's patron saint
- 23 Office missive sent out arbitrarily ?
- 26 "Rent" character
- 27 It borders five U.S. states
- 28 Yarn
- 29 What Gustave Doré's "The Confusion of Tongues" depicts
- 30 Stone fruit?
- 36 Fellow sailors
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- 40 Tailor's sideline?
- 41 Dark horse
- 42 Applicability
- 43 Back
- 46 Expander during inhalation
- 48 Aeronaut who's headed for the moon?
- 53 Headmaster honorific
- 54 Earnest request
- 55 Suffix with land or sea
- 57 "Outside the Lines" broadcaster
- 61 Stickers?
- 62 Like audiences for R-rated film s
- 64 D.C. transport
- 65 It may be open at a bar
- 66 Photographers who stalk future lieutenants?
- 71 Sunset shade
- 72 One getting a licking, informally?
- 74 The Pequod, e.g.
- 75 Poverty relief organization
- 77 Support for a proposal ?
- 78 Animal that may carry its baby on its back
- 79 Wireless?
- 82 Substist
- 84 Desktop machine made of malleable metal ?
- 88 Eddie _____ "Leave It to Beaver" boy
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- 93 Blast furnace input
- 94 Thurman of "The Producers"
- 95 Turkey's place, in large part
- 97 Snowbelt city
- 98 Groused
- 101 Provides some idea of an object's size?
- 106 Communicate with the server, perhaps
- 107 Oscar nominee for "Silkwood"
- 108 Feed supply r
- 112 Wind up
- 113 Lassie's affliction after failing to rescue Timmy?
- 118 C.P.A.'s study
- 119 1965 Johnny Mathis album of Latin American music
- 120 Turn while seated
- 121 "Into the Wild" star Hirsch
- 122 _____ mining
- 123 Gender-neutral pronoun
- 124 Eccom-unicat
- 125 "It's a pity"
- DOWN
- 1 Age of Aquarius hairstyle
- 2 Student's burden
- 3 Bad choice on first down
- 4 Retirement period
- 5 Possessor?
- 6 Medieval battle weapon
- 7 Dashboard abbr.
- 8 Kia model
- 9 Go astray
- 10 "That's amazing!"
- 11 Moves obliquely
- 12 Last name in horror
- 13 Doctrine
- 14 George Eliot, but not Marilyn Manson
- 15 Chinese company whose 2014 IPO was the world's largest in history
- 16 Retail clerk's accessory
- 17 Glare
- 19 "You'll be _____"
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- 25 Pentagon Papers subject, for short
- 29 Babe in the woods
- 31 Lead one to believe
- 32 Plane, e.g.
- 33 "Cubist" Rubi k
- 34 Dinero unit
- 35 Not just see
- 36 Hybrid animal
- 37 South American capital
- 38 Arm of the sea
- 39 In session
- 44 Amenity in a G.M. vehicle
- 45 What some dreams and themes do
- 47 First Nations tribe
- 49 What doesn't come full circle?
- 50 Hear agai n
- 51 "Bugsy Malone" star Scott
- 52 _____ avi s
- 56 Candy from Austri a
- 58 Briggs & _____ (engine maker)
- 59 Tinseltown event
- 60 Drift off
- 62 Nysaland, today
- 63 Parody
- 64 Problem of mistaken identity
- 65 Reformer from the time of D.D.E. to L.B.J.
- 67 Tommy Lasorda's jersey number
- 68 Require balm, say
- 69 Reacted to a shock, maybe
- 70 Streak
- 73 Boon for an investigative journalist



- 76 A.C.C. school
- 78 Five-time Jockey Club Gold Cup winner
- 79 Farm name under
- 80 Unforthcoming
- 81 Reputation, informally
- 83 Have an encore presentation of
- 85 Abound
- 86 To be, to Balzac
- 87 Drops out of the sky
- 88 Played along with
- 89 "A poem in our eyes," per Emerson
- 90 Little pitcher's place
- 91 55 picture
- 96 Jessica Simpson's sister
- 98 No longer standing tall?
- 99 In readiness
- 100 Bronchial woe
- 102 Singer _____
- 103 First of 50: Abbr.
- 104 Source of the word "glare"
- 105 2006 World Cup winner
- 109 Work hard
- 110 "_____ and Basile" (1963 jazz album)
- 111 Jim Beam and Wild Turkey
- 113 Gentle bird call
- 114 Palindromic animal
- 115 Once-high station?
- 116 "Paradise Lost" figure
- 117 Media exec Mooney

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



KNOWLEDGE

ARCHIVE PHOTO OF THE DAY

STRIPES CENTRAL

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OMBUDSMAN

GADGETS & CHARTS



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Do you know who this is? A recent study found that most people can identify Microsoft founder Bill Gates, but are unclear on what privacy policies cover, what net neutrality means and the difference between the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Study shows what we (don't) know about 'Net

By ANNE FLAHERTY
The Associated Press

The Internet generation doesn't actually know much about how it works.

A new Pew Research Center survey released Tuesday found most people can recognize Microsoft founder Bill Gates and know that hashtags belong in tweets, but are confused about whether having a privacy policy means that a company actually keeps consumer information confidential.

The results underscore what many techies say is a growing problem for the U.S.: a generation reliant on the convenience that technology brings, but with little understanding of the risks of conducting nearly every transaction digitally.

Aaron Smith, senior researcher at Pew and author of the report, said he thought it would be interesting for policy makers and tech designers to find what knowledge gaps existed in modern life.

"Just because people use these gadgets a lot doesn't necessarily mean they know everything about how they work and where they came from," he said.

Not surprisingly, people

younger than 30 seemed to do better on some of the questions than older Internet users, such as knowing what a Wiki or captcha is. But young or old, only about 6 in 10 Internet users understood that net neutrality refers to the equal treatment of digital content by service providers. The Federal Communications Commission is considering whether it should regulate the broadband industry more aggressively to prevent providers from playing favorites among content sites like Google, YouTube, Amazon or Netflix.

Another area where age didn't seem to matter was the false assumption that the existence of a privacy policy means that a company keeps the data it collects on consumers confidential. More than half — 52 percent — of Internet users thought that was the case, whereas privacy policies often explain that a company reserves the right to sell a person's information to advertisers or other third parties.

Three-fourths of people surveyed thought the Internet was the same thing as the World Wide Web. The Internet refers to the infrastructure that uses specific protocols to connect various networks; the web is built upon that architecture to share information using web pages.

GADGET WATCH

Lightning connection bright idea for flash drive

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

SanDisk's new iXpand flash drive is built with an iOS Lightning connection, making it simple to move data on and off the latest Apple iOS devices.

This includes photos, movies and documents, and instantly expands device capacity to as much as 64GB.

In addition to the flexible Lightning connection, there is a standard USB port to connect with any computer, essentially making it a flash drive designed for iPhones and iPads.

Once you connect the USB end to an Apple or Windows system, you can load up the content you wish to transfer to your handheld device.

While talking with SanDisk representatives, they mentioned that 2.4 million images are taken every minute, and 71 percent of those happen with a cell phone.

With that in mind, the single biggest advantage most users will love is the automatic backup of your handheld device's photo library. The app has a setting to activate this anytime it is connected to your iPhone or iPad.

To set up, download the free iXpand Sync mobile app. After it's installed and you connect the iXpand, the devices will instantly recognize each other. The app allows you to select individual files or folders, depending on how you set it up.

There's an internal battery in the iXpand that charges when it's connected to your computer. Just connect, and transfer on and off.

A small light on the side has indications for transferring data (blinking), charged (green), low battery (red) and charging (amber).

The iXpand's Lightning port was designed for use while your device is in a case. So when it's connected to your devices, you will not be able to charge them.

Online: SanDisk.com: 16GB, \$59.99; 32GB, \$79.99; 64GB, \$119.99

The Wellograph activity tracker watch is the latest wearable health and fitness gadget to hit the retail market. This device looks like a watch, and it is a watch, but it also does a whole lot more.

It's built with a rectangular Spherical Sapphire Crystal face. The company states: "Sapphire is a material with exceptional physical, optical and chemical properties. Its remarkable hardness is second only to diamonds." This is built into a matte finished anodized aluminum lower case.

As you would expect from any fitness device, it tracks workouts and vitals such as heart rate during waking hours and stores it for four months.

You can use it as a standalone device or with the free Wellograph app (iOS, Android, Windows) on



TNS photos

The Wellograph activity tracker watch tracks workouts and vital statistics such as heart rate during waking hours and stores the information for up to four months.

your smartphone. It also functions as a pedometer for walking or running, and a stopwatch in addition to the time of day and date.

The device is built with those who prefer longer battery life in mind, so you'll have to re-connect it via Bluetooth to see the Wellograph app on your handheld device. But have no fear, this is a simple process; it requires just a long press of the upper button on the watch.

The device comes in black or silver along with a brown leather strap, and includes a USB charging dock. One full charge should last about seven days.

The Wellograph is waterproof up to 165 feet deep.

Online: wellograph.com; \$349

The RoadShow universal tablet car mount means back-seat travelers get some high-tech entertainment without having to buy a new device. The car mount takes your existing tablet and turns it into a multimedia center in seconds.

It installs without any tools. Just position the hooks on the hardware to the backside of the headrest and secure it. Then adjust the support system (8.5 by 1.5 by 4.5 inches) to your tablet's size so it's snug.

The LCD is totally exposed for all the touchscreen features and can be placed in most any angle for viewing.

All iPad versions along with most other tablets should work.

Online: felixbrand.com; \$39.99



ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for Nov. 26:

1. "Blank Space," Taylor Swift
2. "Take Me To Church," Hozier
3. "Uptown Funk (featuring Bruno Mars)," Mark Ronson
4. "All About That Boss," Meghan Trainor
5. "I'm Not the Only One," Sam Smith
6. "Animals," Maroon 5
7. "Jealous," Nick Jonas
8. "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift
9. "Lips Are Movin'," Meghan Trainor
10. "The Heart Wants What It Wants," Selena Gomez

— Compiled by TNS

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The most streamed tracks on Spotify Nov. 17-23:

1. "Take Me To Church," Hozier
2. "I Don't F--- With You," Big Sean
3. "I'm Not the Only One," Sam Smith
4. "Animals," Maroon 5
5. "Love Me Harder," Ariana Grande
6. "Jealous," Nick Jonas
7. "Hobbit (Stay High)," Tove Lo
8. "Steal My Girl," One Direction
9. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
10. "Trumpets," Jason Derulo

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES BOOKS

Bestseller list of paid U.S. iBooks downloads for week ending Nov. 24

1. "Captivated by You," Sylvia Day
2. "The Escape," David Baldacci
3. "Gone Girl," Gillian Flynn
4. "The Burning Room," Michael Connelly
5. "Gray Mountain," John Grisham
6. "Fifty Shades of Grey," E L James
7. "The Andy Cohen Diaries," Andy Cohen
8. "Reveal," Stephen King
9. "MONEY Master the Game," Tony Robbins
10. "Flesh and Blood," Patricia Cornwell

— Compiled by TNS

VIDEO GAMES

The editors of Game Informer rank the Top 10 Wii U games for November:

1. "Super Smash Bros. for Wii U," Nintendo
2. "Bayonetta 2," Nintendo
3. "Skylanders Trap Team," Activision
4. "Hyrule Warriors," Nintendo
5. "Mario Kart 8," Nintendo
6. "Another World," Digital Lounge
7. "Watch Dogs," Ubisoft
8. "Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze," Nintendo
9. "SteamWorld Dig," Image & From
10. "The LEGO Movie Videogame," Warner Bros.

— Compiled by TNS

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for Nov. 26:

ANDROID

1. Candy Crush Soda Saga, King.com
2. Five Nights at Freddy's 2 Demo, Scott Cawthon
3. TwoDots, Playdots, Inc.
4. Darkness Reborn, GAMEVIL
5. King Fu Pets, Com2US

Top 5 free apps for Nov. 26:

APPLE

1. Candy Crush Soda Saga, King.com
2. Facebook Messenger, Facebook
3. Facebook, Facebook
4. Instagram, Instagram
5. Dumb Ways to Die 2: The Games, Metro Trains Melbourne Pty Ltd.

— Compiled by TNS

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Oil plunge a boon, threat to economy

The Associated Press

A renewed plunge in oil prices is a worrying sign of weakness in the global economy that could shake governments dependent on oil revenues. Yet it is also a bonus for consumers as prices fall at the pump, giving individuals more spending money and lowering costs for many businesses.

The latest slide follows OPEC's decision to leave its production target at 30 million barrels a day. Member nations of the cartel are worried they'll lose market share if they lower production.

Partly because of the shale oil boom in the U.S., the world is awash in oil at a time when demand from major economies is weak — so prices are falling. Citibank analysts wrote in a report Thursday that global supplies exceed demand by about 700,000 barrels a day now.

The price of U.S. crude oil dropped \$7.54 a barrel, or 10 percent, to \$66.15 Friday and is down 38 percent since hitting \$107 in

June. Brent crude, an international benchmark, fell 3 percent to \$70.15 a barrel on Friday.

Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service, expects the price to fall by another \$5 or \$10 a barrel before stopping. "It's that kind of rout," he said.

Overall, the slide is a boon for consumers in oil-importing regions like Asia, Europe and North America. But there are also some possible negatives.

The U.S. economy will receive an outsized benefit from lower oil prices because the U.S. is the world's largest oil consumer.

U.S. consumers have not surprised and delighted at the lowest gasoline prices since 2010. Drivers in some low-cost states such as South Carolina, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas could see prices below \$2, according to Kloza.

The U.S. national average was \$2.79 on Friday. Kloza expects gas to eventually fall a full \$1 per gallon below its June peak of about \$3.70 a gallon. That would

save typical households \$60 a month for those that burn 60 gallons of fuel.

Canadian consumers are also catching a break. In some regions, such as southern Ontario, gasoline could fall below the important psychological barrier of \$1 per liter.

The oil companies propelling a production boom in Canada and the U.S. won't be so happy. Crude produced in Canadian oil sands, deep offshore in the Gulf of Mexico and in some U.S. onshore shale formations is some of the most expensive oil to produce in the world.

Many of Europe's economies are not importers of oil, so lower prices are likely to give a welcome, if small, boost to growth there. Cheaper energy reduces costs for industry and puts more money in consumers' pockets. That will be particularly useful in the 18-nation eurozone, where unemployment is high.

Declining fuel prices also, however, add to one of the eurozone's

biggest headaches: low inflation. Weak inflation makes it harder for troubled economies like Greece to reduce debt. It is also a problem for the European Central Bank, which wants to boost inflation from just 0.3 percent currently to around 2 percent.

The few European producing countries — North Britain and Norway in the North Sea — face a drop in revenues that could balance out the positives of cheaper fuel.

MARKET WATCH

Nov. 28, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	0.49
	17,828.24
Nasdaq Composite	4.31
	4,791.63
Standard & Poor's 500	-5.27
	2,067.56
Russell 2000	-17.39
	1,173.23

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 1)	\$1.2809
Dollar buys (Dec. 1)	€0.7807
British pound (Dec. 1)	\$1.61
Japanese yen (Dec. 1)	¥115.00
South Korean won (Dec. 1)	₩1,076.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.5629
Canada (dollar)	1.1425
China (yuan)	6.1434
Denmark (crown)	6.9789
Egypt (pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.2443/0.9837
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.7548
Hungary (forint)	246.32
Israel (sheqel)	3.8948
Japan (yen)	118.75
Kuwait (dinar)	0.2915
Norway (krona)	10.224
Philippines (peso)	44.92
Poland (zloty)	3.36
Saudi Arabia (riyal)	3.7530
Singapore (dollar)	1.3035
South Korea (won)	1,110.203
Switzerland (franc)	0.9657
Taiwan (dollar)	32.63
Turkey (lira)	2.2305
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., non-U.S. dollars), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one U.S. dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	0.10
6-month bill	0.10
30-year bond	2.91

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Sunday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ableene, Texas	75	32	Cldy	Chattanooga	60	48	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	58	29	Cldy	Louisville	63	43	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	57	34	Cldy	Cheyenne	35	10	Cldy	Fresno	64	46	Cldy	Lubbock	74	24	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	42	38	Cldy	Chicago	45	20	Cldy	Goodland	37	5	Cldy	Macon	68	45	Cir
Albuquerque	62	31	Pcldy	Cincinnati	59	38	Rain	Grand Junction	48	27	Pcldy	Madison	33	11	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	46	40	Cldy	Cleveland	56	32	Rain	Grand Rapids	47	23	Cldy	Medford	49	38	Cldy
Amarillo	70	16	Cldy	Colorado Springs	52	13	Cldy	Great Falls	14	03	Cir	Mempphis	70	52	Cldy
Anchorage	24	20	Pcldy	Columbia, S.C.	67	42	Cir	Green Bay	65	05	Cldy	Miami Beach	78	70	Pcldy
Asheville	62	41	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	66	48	Pcldy	Greensboro, N.C.	60	43	Cir	Midland-Odesa	75	30	Cir
Atlanta	63	49	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	58	38	Rain	Harrisburg	49	41	Cldy	Milwaukee	40	15	Cldy
Atlantic City	56	44	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	43	34	Cldy	Hartford	47	41	Cldy	Mpls-St Paul	15	0	Cldy
Baltimore	77	60	Cldy	Corpus Christi	80	65	Cldy	Helena	17	2	Cir	Missoula	19	5	Cldy
Baton Rouge	76	57	Cldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	77	60	Cldy	Honolulu	66	56	Cldy	Monterey	71	51	Cldy
Bilings	11	-2	Pcldy	Dayton	58	34	Rain	Houston	80	62	Cldy	Nashville	65	54	Cldy
Birmingham	66	56	Cldy	Daytona Beach	76	59	Pcldy	Huntsville	65	54	Cldy	New Orleans	75	59	Cldy
Bismark	9	-12	Cir	Denver	42	11	Cldy	Indianapolis	60	30	Rain	New York City	50	44	Cldy
Boise	32	20	Cldy	Des Moines	54	29	Cldy	Jacksonville	73	53	Cir	Newark	53	43	Cldy
Boston	51	43	Cldy	Detroit	52	12	Cldy	Janeau	30	25	Snow	Norfolk, Va.	61	48	Cir
Bridgeport	50	40	Cldy	Duluth	12	-11	Cldy	Kansas City	43	14	Pcldy	North Platte	25	5	Snow
Brownsville	79	64	Cldy	El Paso	71	40	Cir	Key West	78	71	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	66	25	Cir
Buffalo	54	32	Cldy	Elkins	35	47	Cldy	Knoxville	61	43	Cldy	Omaha	27	12	Cir
Burlington	48	36	Cldy	Erie	53	32	Rain	Lake Charles	75	60	Cldy	Orlando	78	59	Pcldy
Cambridge, Mass.	39	35	Snow	Fairbanks	8	-7	Snow	Lake Erie	50	43	Cldy	Pasadena	65	36	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	70	47	Cir	Fargo	9	-11	Cir	Lake George	61	46	Cldy	Pendleton	21	18	Cir
Charleston, W.Va.	60	40	Cir	Flagstaff	52	26	Pcldy	Lincoln	26	11	Cir	Philadelphia	52	45	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	62	44	Cldy	Flint	52	26	Cldy	Little Rock	72	53	Cldy	Phoenix	77	52	Cir
				Fort Smith	74	39	Pcldy	Los Angeles	69	57	Cldy	Pittsburgh	57	38	Rain

National temperature extremes
 Hi: Fri., 87, Riverside, Calif.; Temecula, Calif.; Sat., 84, San Pasqual Valley, Calif.
 Lo: Fri., -15, Baraga Plains, Mich.

back-and-forth play.

SPORTS BRIEFS/NFL

Briefly

UNLV's Hauck stepping down

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — UNLV finally took a step forward when Bobby Hauck last year, only to backslide and cost him his job.

Hauck will step down after coaching the Rebels' season finale against Nevada on Saturday. UNLV is 2-10 this season after going to a bowl game last year for the first time since 2000.

Athletic director Tina Kunzer-Murphy announced Friday that Hauck had submitted his resignation, effective Monday.

"No one has worked harder in trying to achieve consistent success with our football program than Coach Hauck and we thank him for his dedication and leadership," Kunzer-Murphy said. "He and his staff have worked tirelessly in trying to achieve the results we all want to see but it unfortunately has not happened."

Hauck had two years left on his contract and will receive a buyout of \$400,000.

The Rebels are 15-48 in five seasons under Hauck, going 11-27 in the Mountain West Conference. UNLV had three straight two-win seasons under Hauck before he led the Rebels to a 7-6 record and the bowl appearance last year.

Royals trade Crow, give Frasier \$1.8M deal

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Former first-round draft pick Aaron Crow was traded from the Kansas City Royals to the Miami Marlins for left-hander Brian Flynn and right-hander Reid Redman.

In another move Friday, Jason Frasier and the Royals agreed to a one-year contract with a 2016 mutual option that guarantees the reliever \$1.8 million.

Crow, a 28-year-old right-hander taken with the 12th overall pick in 2009, was 6-1 with a 4.12 ERA and three saves in 67 relief appearances this year. The Topeka, Kan., native did not pitch in the postseason.

Crow was a starter in college and in the minor leagues.

Frasier gets \$1.25 million next season, down from \$1.75 million this year. The 2016 option is for \$2 million with a \$550,000 buyout.

Ducks get defenseman Brewer from Lightning

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Strapped for healthy defensemen, the Anaheim Ducks acquired 16-year veteran Eric Brewer from the Tampa Bay Lightning on Friday for a third-round pick in next year's Entry Draft.

The 35-year-old was the fifth overall pick in the 1997 draft by the New York Islanders and also played for Edmonton and St. Louis, where he was captain for

three seasons.

Anaheim's Francois Beauchemin is sidelined for at least four-to-six weeks because of a broken finger on his right hand, sustained when he blocked T.J. Brodie's slapshot during Tuesday's 3-2 win against Calgary. Clayton Stoner missed his third straight game on Friday because of the bumps.

In other NHL news:

■ Martin Brodeur took the ice Friday at the St. Louis Blues' morning skate, eager to show he still can play at a top level.

Brodeur spent the last 21 seasons with the New Jersey Devils and leads the NHL in wins (688), games played (1,259), losses (394) and shutouts (124). He joined the Blues on a tryout basis.

Blues general manager Doug Armstrong called Brodeur's agent, Pat Brisson, on Tuesday after the Blues' 3-2 shootout loss to the Ottawa Senators, a game in which starting goalie Brian Elliott sustained a lower-body injury. Elliott is on injured-reserve and is listed as week-to-week.

Texans' Clowney out against Titans

HOUSTON — No. 1 overall pick Jadeveon Clowney will miss Houston's game against Tennessee on Sunday after a setback on his surgically repaired right knee.

He experienced swelling in his knee after last week's game and didn't practice all week. He was ruled out on Friday.

Clowney has played just four games this season after being injured in Week 1. The outside linebacker, who had arthroscopic surgery Sept. 8, was in for about 50 plays last Sunday in his most significant action since his injury.

Coach Bill O'Brien says they haven't thought about shutting down Clowney for the season. He says: "We've got to continue to manage it and communicate with him as to how he feels and just stay on that road right now."

Spith among leaders at Australian Open

SYDNEY — American Jordan Spieth was one of five players to master a wind-swept course at the Australian Open on Saturday, shooting a 2-under 69 to move into a three-way share of the lead.

Adam Scott stayed close while defending champion Rory McIlroy dropped five shots in two holes and shot 76.

Spieth, second-round leader Greg Chalmers (71) and fellow Australian Brett Rumford (69) had three-round totals of 5-under 208 on a tough Australian Golf Club course and its swirling, unpredictable winds.



NICK WASS/AP

Baltimore running back Ray Rice smiles on the sideline during the second half of a preseason game on Aug. 7 in Baltimore. Rice won the appeal of his indefinite suspension by the NFL, which has been "vacated immediately," the players' union said Friday.

Rice wins appeal, has 'suspension vacated'

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice is free to return to the NFL after an arbitrator quashed his indefinite suspension on Friday for hitting his then-fiancee and now wife.

The NFL said Rice, who is now a free agent, is "eligible to play upon signing a new contract." Whether any team will consider signing him is another matter.

Former U.S. District Judge Barbara S. Jones said NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's decision in September to change Rice's original suspension from two games to indefinite was "arbitrary" and an "abuse of discretion."

Jones noted in her decision that after Goodell increased the league's punishment for a first offense under the personal conduct policy from two to six games, he "called Rice to assure him that the new policy would not affect him — that it was forward-looking and his penalty would not be increased."

That changed, though, after the release of a video showing Rice punching Janay in a hotel elevator. He was also cut by the Ravens.

In her decision, Jones also wrote:

"Because Rice did not mislead the commissioner and because

there were no new facts on which the commissioner could base his increased suspension, I find that the imposition of the indefinite suspension was arbitrary. I therefore vacate the second penalty imposed on Rice.

"The provisions of the first discipline — those regarding making

continued use of counseling and other professional services, having no further involvement with law enforcement, and not committing any additional violations of league policies — still stand." NFL spokesman

Ray Rice
Free agent RB

Greg Aiello said in an email to The Associated Press that the league accepted the decision and confirmed he can return to playing as soon as he signs a contract.

But Rice has not played all season, and was coming off a weak 2013 season. And teams would also need to factor in the opinion of fans and sponsors in deciding whether to sign him.

Rice released a statement via the players' union after the

verdict.

"I made an inexcusable mistake and accept full responsibility for my actions," Rice said. "I am thankful that there was a proper appeals process in place to address this issue. I will continue working hard to improve myself and be the best husband, father and friend, while giving back to my community and helping others to learn from my mistakes."

During his appearance at the hearing, Goodell told Jones: "I do accept that I have to be consistent with consistent circumstances, and ... that's about fairness, and fairness would be, you should be as consistent as possible in your discipline."

The NFL Players Association claimed a "victory for a disciplinary process that is fair and transparent." The union called again for collective bargaining to produce a new personal conduct policy.

To which NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy added:

"Judge Jones' ruling underscores the urgency of our work to develop and implement a clear, fair and comprehensive new personal conduct policy. We expect this policy to be completed and announced in the weeks ahead. Our focus is on consistently enforcing an improved policy going forward."

AP Pro Football Writer Rob Maaddi contributed to this report.

NHL

Roundup

Rangers blank skating Flyers

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Martin St. Louis wasn't even drafted as a young player. Now, he's in elite company that includes Wayne Gretzky.

The 12-time All-Star reached 1,000 career points with a goal and added an assist, Cam Talbot made 26 saves and the New York Rangers beat the slumping Philadelphia Flyers 3-0 Friday.

St. Louis became the first undrafted player in NHL history to reach 1,000 points. Gretzky took that list with 2,857. Adam Oates (1,420), Peter Stastny (1,239), Dino Ciccarelli (1,200) and Joe Mullen (1,063) are the others.

"I owe it a lot to the people who believed in me and the players I played with," he said. "It's a great accomplishment. I'm not going to hide my feelings. I'm proud of that. Doing it in a win, on a goal, it makes it special."

Rick Nash and Dan Boyle also scored for the Rangers (10-8-4), who shut out the Flyers for the second time in nine days. Derek Simon assisted all three goals.

"We were able to get some timely goals and when we didn't have a breakdown, we had some big blocked shots or big saves from our goalie," Rangers coach Alain Vigneault said.

Philadelphia (8-11-3) dropped to 1-6-1 in its last eight games while getting blanked for the third time in its last six. Boos rained down on the Flyers during the third period.

"This is a better team than we're playing right now and that our record is showing," Flyers general manager Ron Hextall said. "We have to get going, no doubt about it. We haven't happy with our record and our overall performance."

Hextall said he didn't expect any imminent major shake-ups. "We have a pretty good hockey team out there," he said. "I haven't lost any faith in this team, but we're not happy, either."

Red Wings 5, Devils 4 (SO): Gustav Nyquist scored the only goal in the shootout, and visiting Detroit rallied from three goals down to beat New Jersey.

The Red Wings had trailed 4-1 before surging to victory. **Blackhawks 4, Ducks 1:** Patrick Kane scored two goals, and Andrew Shaw and Brad Richards each had a goal and an assist, leading visiting Chicago over Anaheim.

Corey Crawford made 23 saves, helping the Blackhawks win for the fifth time in six games.

Capitals 5, Islanders 2: Alex Ovechkin scored the go-ahead goal, Matt Niskanen had three assists and host Washington slowed down streaking New York.

Ovechkin gave Washington a 3-2 lead midway through the second period. He has four goals in four games.

Hurricanes 4, Penguins 2: Nathan Gerbe's power-play goal broke a third-period tie, and Carolina earned a rare road win by beating Pittsburgh.

Gerbe scored his third goal of the season at 3:10, and Jiri Tlustý pushed the lead to two in the closing seconds with a power-play tally into an empty net for his 10th goal.

Bruins 2, Jets 1 (OT): Dougie Hamilton scored 3:39 into overtime, and host Boston rallied to beat Winnipeg.

Carl Soderberg assisted on both goals for Boston, which held off the Jets during a four-minute power play late in the third period and early in overtime.

Sabres 2, Canadiens 1: Matt Moulson's tiebreaking power-play goal with 1:18 left lifted host Buffalo over Montreal.

Tyler Ennis added a highlight-reel goal, and Jhonas Enroth made 30 saves as Buffalo rebounded from a home loss to Winnipeg on Wednesday.

Canucks 5, Blue Jackets 0: Ryan Miller made 31 saves for his second consecutive shutout, his third of the season and 32nd of his career, and streaking Vancouver shut out struggling host Columbus.

Miller, tied for the NHL lead with 15 wins, extended his scoreless run to 152 minutes, 5 seconds for the Canucks, who are tied for first in the Western Conference. They are 6-1-1 in their past eight games.

Panthers 3, Senators 2: Jimmy Hayes scored the winning goal to lift host Florida over Ottawa.

Sean Bergenheim and Dylan Olsen also scored for the Panthers, and Vincent Trocheck had two assists. Al Montoya made 22 saves in his fourth start of the season.

Blues 4, Oilers 3 (OT): Vladimir Tarasenko scored at 4:20 of overtime to carry host St. Louis past Edmonton.

The Blues, who rebounded from a shutout loss to Ottawa at home on Tuesday, have won four straight against the Oilers and nine of 10.

Wild 5, Stars 4 (OT): Marco Scandella scored the winning goal 2:04 into overtime, after Thomas Vanek pulled his team even late in regulation, and visiting Minnesota beat Dallas after blowing a three-goal lead.

Scandella pulled a loose puck past Kari Lehtonen from close range to hand the Stars their eighth straight overtime loss at home.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference									
Atlantic Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Montreal	24	16	7	1	33	62	49		
Tampa Bay	23	15	6	2	32	81	63		
Detroit	24	15	8	1	31	63	60		
Boston	24	14	9	1	29	61	58		
Toronto	22	11	8	3	25	70	67		
Florida	21	9	6	6	24	45	53		
Ottawa	22	10	8	4	24	60	59		
Buffalo	23	12	7	4	28	59	57		
Metropolitan Division									
Pittsburgh	23	15	5	3	33	78	53		
N.Y. Islanders	23	16	7	0	32	74	64		
Washington	22	10	8	4	24	63	69		
N.Y. Rangers	22	10	8	4	24	64	69		
New Jersey	23	9	10	4	22	57	68		
Philadelphia	22	9	11	3	19	69	69		
Carolina	22	7	12	3	17	52	65		
Columbus	22	6	14	2	14	51	81		

Western Conference									
Central Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Nashville	22	15	5	2	32	62	45		
St. Louis	23	14	6	3	31	62	49		
Chicago	23	14	8	1	29	70	47		
Winnipeg	22	9	9	4	28	52	56		
Minnesota	22	12	10	0	24	63	53		
Dallas	23	9	9	5	23	68	79		
Colorado	23	10	7	6	21	59	73		
Pacific Division									
Vancouver	23	16	6	1	33	72	61		
San Jose	24	14	5	5	33	64	60		
Anaheim	24	14	8	2	30	75	64		
Los Angeles	23	12	9	2	26	63	62		
San Jose	24	10	10	4	24	62	66		
Edmonton	23	9	11	3	21	59	73		
Edmonton	24	6	14	4	14	56	82		

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Thursday's game									
Friday's games									
Detroit 5, N.Y. Islanders 2									
N.Y. Rangers 3, Philadelphia 0									
Chicago 4, Anaheim 1									
Buffalo 2, Tampa Bay 1									
Boston 2, Winnipeg 1 (OT)									
Florida 3, Pittsburgh 2									
Carolina 4, Ottawa 2									
St. Louis 4, Edmonton 3 (OT)									
Minnesota 5, Dallas 4 (OT)									
Saturday's games									
Philadelphia 4, New York Rangers									
Washington at Toronto									
Buffalo at Montreal									
Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh									
St. Louis at N.Y. Islanders									
Columbus at Nashville									
San Jose at Minnesota									
Dallas at Colorado									
Calgary at Arizona									
Los Angeles at St. Louis									
Anaheim at San Jose									
Sunday's game									
Vancouver at Detroit									

Friday									
Rangers 3, Flyers 0									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
N.Y. Rangers	1	1	1	0	3				
Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0				
First Period—2, N.Y. Rangers, Boyle 2 (Stapan, St. Louis), 6:10 (pp).									
Second Period—2, N.Y. Rangers, St. Louis 5 (Stapan, Richards), 4:14.									
Third Period—3, N.Y. Rangers, Nash 16 (Stapan, McHugh), 5:30 (sh).									
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 10-11-24. Philadelphia 8-7-11—26.									
Power-play opportunities—Chicago 0 of 2; St. Louis 0 of 2.									
Goals—N.Y. Rangers 3 (Boyle 2-21, 26 shots-26 saves), Philadelphia, Mason 4 (2-24-21).									
A—19,969 (19,541), T—2:15.									

Blackhawks 4, Ducks 1									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Chicago	2	2	1	1	4				
Anaheim	1	0	0	1	1				
First Period—1, Chicago, Richards 4 (Seabrook), 7:58, 2, Chicago, Shaw 5 (Seabrook), 10:36.									
Second Period—1, Chicago, Kane 9 (Seabrook), 16:49.									
Third Period—5, Chicago, Kane 10 (Seabrook), 17:11, 18:36.									
Shots on Goal—Chicago 11-13-14-38. Anaheim 8-7-11—26.									
Power-play opportunities—Chicago 0 of 2; Anaheim 0 of 2.									
Goals—Chicago, Crawford 11-15 (24 shots-23 saves), Anaheim, Anderson 10-3-37 (34).									
A—17,355 (17,174), T—2:27.									

Capitals 5, Islanders 2									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
N.Y. Islanders	2	0	2	0	2				
Washington	2	2	1	0	5				
First Period—1, Washington, Nicklas 4 (Niskanen, Kuznetsov), 11:51 (pp), 2, Washington, Johansson 9 (Niskanen), 18:27, 3, N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 10 (Ledy, Odojko), 18:58, 4, N.Y. Islanders, Kuznetsov 11 (Niskanen), 19:33.									
Second Period—5, Washington, Ovechkin 6 (Wilson, Odojko), 16:46.									
Third Period—6, Washington, Kuznetsov 2 (Brouwer, Johansson), 5:56, Washington, Ward 9 (Carlson, Niskanen), 18:32 (en).									
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Islanders 11-8-9-28. Washington 15-13-9-27.									
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Islanders 0 of 2; Washington 1 of 2.									
Goals—N.Y. Islanders, Johansson 5-30 (26 shots-26 saves), Washington, Holtby 8-5-3 (28-28).									
A—18,506 (18,506), T—2:25.									



MATT SLOCUM/AP

The New York Rangers' Martin St. Louis celebrates after scoring during the second period Friday's game in Philadelphia. The 12-time All-Star reached 1,000 career points with the goal.

Bruins 2, Jets 1 (OT)									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Winnipeg	1	0	0	1	1				
First Period—1, Winnipeg, Prugien 4 (E.Kane, Scheffele), 16:24 (pp).									
Second Period—2, Boston, Lucic 5 (Soderberg, Hamilton), 3:05.									
Third Period—2, Boston, Hamilton 5 (Soderberg, Eriksson), 3:09.									
Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 13-7-15-11. Boston 11-11-15-28.									
Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg 1 of 5; Boston 0 of 3.									
Goals—Winnipeg, Hutchinson 4-12 (36 shots-36 saves), Boston, Reiss 11-61 (36-35).									
A—17,565 (17,565), T—2:34.									

Sabres 2, Canadiens 1									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Montreal	0	0	1	1	0				
Buffalo	1	1	0	0	2				
First Period—1, Buffalo, Ennis 1 (Girgensons, Moulson), 3:27.									
Second Period—2, Montreal, Parenteau 6 (Deshaies, Sekach), 1:35 (pp), 3, Buffalo, Moulson 4 (Ennis, Ristolainen), 18:42 (pp).									
Shots on Goal—Montreal 13-8-10-31. Buffalo 7-12-6-25.									
Power-play opportunities—Montreal 1 of 3; Buffalo 1 of 3.									
Goals—Montreal, Price 13-5-1 (25 shots-23 saves), Buffalo, Enroth 4-9-1 (31-30).									
A—19,970 (19,070), T—2:31.									

Red Wings 5, Devils 4 (SO)									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Detroit	1	2	1	0	5				
New Jersey	1	1	0	0	2				
First Period—1, New Jersey, Gir 4 (Greene, Everson), 2:18, 2, Detroit, Sheahan 3 (Kronwall, Zetterberg), 3:59 (pp), 3, New Jersey, Cammalleri 9 (Zidlicky), 13:52 (pp), 4, New Jersey, Harold 1 (Jaur-Hennrich), 15:18.									
Second Period—5, New Jersey, Cammalleri 10 (Severson, Henrique), 28 (pp), 6, Detroit, Ouellet 1 (Helm, Weiss), 1:55, 7, Detroit, Abdelkader 7 (Zetterberg, Frenzen), 12:52 (pp).									
Third Period—8, Detroit, Miller 1 (Kronwall, Jaur), 10:07.									
Shootout—Detroit 1 (Datsyuk NG, Tatar NG, Nyquist G), New Jersey 0 (Joseph NG, Cammalleri NG, Ryder NG).									
Shots on Goal—Detroit 9-17-4-32. New Jersey 10-6-8-31.									
Power-play opportunities—Detroit 2 of 3; New Jersey 2 of 3.									
Goals—Detroit, Mrazek 2-20 (25 shots-24 saves), New Jersey, Schneider 9-9-3 (32-28).									
A—16,592 (17,625), T—2:45.									

Blues 4, Oilers 3

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Top 25 roundup

Stanford
crushes
UCLA*The Associated Press*

PASADENA, Calif. — Kevin Hogan passed for 234 yards and two touchdowns, and Stanford crushed No. 9 UCLA's hopes for the Pac-12 South title and a College Football Playoff spot with a 31-10 victory Friday.

Devon Cajuste and Michael Rector caught scoring passes for the Cardinal (7-5, 5-4 Pac-12) as the two-time defending Pac-12 champions salvaged some satisfaction from a down season by trouncing the Bruins (9-3, 6-3, No. 8 CFP) for the seventh consecutive time.

With a dynamite 16-for-19 performance by Hogan and two rushing TDs from Remound Wright, Stanford snatched the South title away from UCLA, which needed a victory to advance to the conference title game. Instead, the Bruins flopped in another big game and Stanford handed the division crown to Arizona, a 42-35 winner over Arizona State on Friday.

Brett Hundley passed for 146 yards in likely his final home game for the Bruins, losing a matchup with Hogan for the fourth time in three years.

Western Kentucky 67, No. 19 Marshall 66 (OT): Brandon Doughty threw a Conference USA-record eight touchdown passes, the last in overtime to Jared Dangerfield followed by a 2-point conversion pass to Willie McNeal that lifted the visiting Hill-toppers over the Thundering Herd.

Marshall's Rakeem Cato had seven touchdown passes but threw four interceptions as the teams combined for 1,446 yards of offense.

Doughty broke the previous conference record of six TD passes. He was 34-for-50 for 491 yards.

Western Kentucky (7-5, 4-4) foiled Marshall's bid for the fourth perfect season in school history. The teams tied the Bowl Subdivision record for the most combined points scored in a game involving a ranked team, set when West Virginia beat Baylor 70-63 in 2012. It was the highest-scoring game in Conference USA history, eclipsing East Carolina's 65-59 win over Marshall in double overtime in 2012.

Marshall (11-1, 7-1) saw its 13-game home winning streak snapped and likely lost its chance to earn a place in the New Year's bowls.

Air Force 27, No. 21 Colorado State 24: Will Cantoni made a 39-yard field goal as time expired after backup quarterback Nate Romine completed a long pass, and the host Falcons ended the Rams' nine-game winning streak.

Fullbacks Shayne Davern and D.J. Johnson scored for Air Force (9-3, 5-3), which has won six straight over the Rams (10-2, 6-2) at Falcon Stadium.

Romine stepped in for starter Kale Pearson, who was a late scratch with a tender right ankle. Romine ran for a score and threw for 135 yards, including a 26-yard strike to Garrett Brown to get the Falcons in field-goal range.

This after Colorado State went for it on fourth-and-short in Air Force territory, only to have Dee Hart stopped short. It gave Air Force good field position and 38 seconds left.



RICK SCUTERI/AP

Arizona linebacker Scooby Wright III, right, sacks Arizona State quarterback Mike Bercovi during Friday's game in Tucson, Ariz.

Wildcats hold off Sun Devils

Arizona earns berth in Pac-12 title game

By JOHN MARSHALL

The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Arizona coach Rick Rodriguez didn't want the score of the UCLA-Stanford game to be displayed inside Arizona Stadium, nor did he want word to leak down to the sideline.

The focus had to be on beating rival Arizona State in the Territorial Cup. If that led to the Pac-12 South title, even better.

It worked out perfectly on both counts for the Wildcats.

Nick Wilson ran for 178 yards and three touchdowns and No. 12 Arizona held off No. 13 Arizona State on Friday to claim the Pac-12 South title.

"Right after the game when I was walking out to shake Coach (Todd) Graham's hand, I think either my wife or my son said: 'Did you know UCLA lost?'" Rodriguez said. "That made me bounce a little more in the air."

Arizona (10-2, 7-2 Pac-12, CFP No. 11) needed to beat its biggest rival and have Stanford knock off No. 9 UCLA to win the Pac-12 South.

The Cardinal took care of the first part by rolling over the Bruins. The Wildcats handled their end with a stream of big plays and a final defensive stand.

Anu Solomon was a little slow after an ankle injury last week, but threw for 208 yards and a pair of touchdowns to Samajie Grant.

Wilson was again explosive, bursting off for a 72-yard touchdown run in the second half after running for 218 yards last week.

The victory, combined with Stanford's win, earned the Wildcats a rematch with No. 3 Oregon in the Pac-12 Championship game on Dec. 5 at Levi's Stadium in the Bay Area. Arizona beat the Ducks 31-24 in Eugene on Oct. 2.

The Sun Devils (9-3, 6-3, CFP No. 13) had trouble getting out of their own way.

Their offense had a turnover that led to a score on its first drive, another to set up Arizona with a short field for a touchdown and couldn't punch it in with four tries inside Arizona's 3.

ASU's defense was hit with two long scoring plays and wasn't able to consistently stop the Wildcats.



RICK SCUTERI/AP

Arizona quarterback Anu Solomon threw for 208 yards and two touchdowns.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Alive: Long shots still in contention for playoff spot

FROM BACK PAGE

A second victory over Oregon this season — assuming the Ducks take care of business Saturday at Oregon State — both away from home, would be about as good a pair of victories as any team in the country can claim. Throw on top of that wins over Arizona State and at Utah and the Wildcats (10-2, 7-2) would have an interesting case as the winner of one of the best divisions and best conferences in the country.

Arizona's problem is its overall résumé has some holes, specifically three non-conference games with little zing (UNLV, UTSA and Nevada). Arizona's losses were to UCLA (17-7) and Southern California (28-26) on a last-second missed field goal, no shame there. But all conference schedules are not created equal. Arizona drew last-place Washington State from the Pac-12 North.

The Wildcats might need some help in the form of losses by a couple of other playoff contenders, but win and they're in the mix.

Missouri has an even longer road to the playoff.

Coach Gary Pinkel's Tigers, 17th in the playoff rankings, will play either Alabama or Mississippi State in the SEC championship game on Dec. 7 in Atlanta. If Alabama beats Auburn in the Iron Bowl on Saturday, the Tide go to Atlanta. If Alabama loses and Mississippi State beats Mississippi in the Egg Bowl, the Bulldogs go.

If both teams lose, Alabama goes.

No matter what happens with the West, a Missouri victory in the SEC championship muddles the playoff picture and creates some difficult questions for the selection committee.

The Tigers (10-2, 7-1) played the two worst teams in the SEC West, Texas A&M and Arkansas are not bad teams, but they don't fall into the category of résumé-making victories. Missouri also lost at home to lowly Indiana and was shut out at home by Georgia.

If Missouri beats one-loss Alabama in Atlanta, not only would that likely eliminate the Tide but it could scratch a one-loss Mississippi State team off the list, too. Sure the SEC West is tough, but at that point it could be difficult to justify putting a team that didn't win its division in the playoff.

Would the committee leave out the toughest conference in the country? Or just take its chance?

Stay tuned.

Bruins go bust: With everything to gain, UCLA flopped.

The Bruins' 31-10 loss to Stanford at the Rose Bowl was all kinds of ugly and cost them a Pac-12 South crown. UCLA had played itself back into the playoff race and could have made a great case for a playoff spot, even with two losses, by beating Oregon in the Pac-12 title game. UCLA has played one of the toughest schedules in the country.

Instead, quarterback Brett Hundley and the Bruins played their worst game of the season and lost to Stanford for the seventh consecutive time.

"We were aware of what was to come if we handled our business, but it didn't happen that way," UCLA linebacker Miles Jack said.



L.G. PATTERSON/AP

Missouri defensive lineman Markus Golden (33) celebrates with teammates after he recovered a fumble late in the fourth quarter of Friday's game against Arkansas in Columbia, Mo. The Tigers won 21-14.

No. 17 Tigers hold off Razorbacks

Missouri captures SEC East crown with win

By R.B. FALLSTROM

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — After three quarters smothered by Arkansas, Missouri found a way out. It's been that way most of the year, simply finding ways to get the job done.

"I just think it got contagious," coach Gary Pinkel said after finally emerging from a rowdy locker room celebrating the 21-14 victory Friday over Arkansas that sent the No. 17 Tigers to the SEC championship game for the second straight season.

"You win games like that, a lot of players are making plays."

Marcus Murphy scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 12-yard run with 4:38 remaining and Markus Golden recovered a fumble to seal it.

"It don't get no better than that, man," Golden said. "It's a great feeling."

Missouri (10-2, 7-1, No. 17 CFP) tied it at 14 early in the fourth quarter with a 98-yard drive capped by Jimmie Hunt's 4-yard TD reception and a reverse pass by receiver Bud Sasser to Darius White for the 2-point conversion.

"It worked awesome," Pinkel said. "When these things work, it's a great call."

Arkansas (6-6, 2-6) was driving for the tie when Kentrell Brothers stripped Alex Collins and Golden recovered with 2:13 to go at the Missouri 35 to thwart Arkansas' bid to tie it.

The game got a bit contentious even before the opening kickoff. Arkansas players accused Missouri players of refusing to

shake hands.

"I think this is a nice start to the rivalry," Arkansas coach Bret Bielema said. "I don't know what happened. I just know there was a couple things there at the end of the coin toss."

Golden said Missouri players shook hands before the coin toss and didn't think it necessary to repeat such pleasantries.

The Razorbacks had won two straight, both shutouts against ranked teams while outscoring Mississippi and LSU 47-0.

"I think we might have worn down in the fourth quarter," Bielema said. "My guess is we'll be very, very energized and very, very excited bowl team to take someone."

A sellout crowd of 71,168 stuck around for the fourth-quarter surge by the Tigers that kept Georgia out of the Southeastern Conference title game on Dec. 7 in Atlanta. The Bulldogs (9-2, 6-2) would have won the East by virtue of a blowout victory against Missouri earlier in the season.

Fans mobbed the field after Maty Mauk's kneel down ended it while stadium personnel took down the goal posts to prevent fans from totting them off to a nearby tavern. Ray Charles' "Georgia on My Mind" played while the stadium slowly emptied.

It's the fifth division title in eight seasons for Missouri (two in the SEC and three in the Big 12), which also reached 10 victories for the fifth time in 14 seasons under Pinkel.

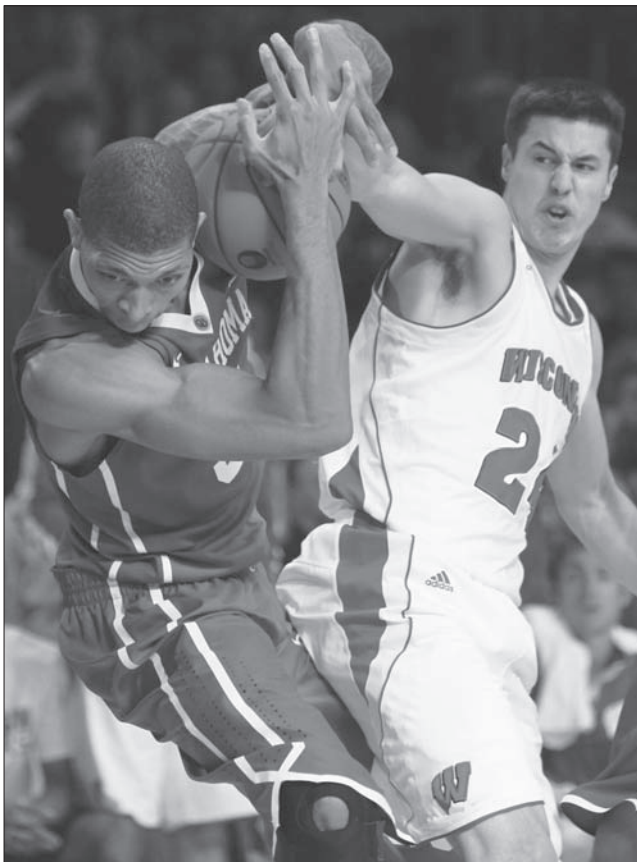
"One of the great traits they have is that when things get tough, they get tougher," Pinkel said. "I can't tell you how proud I am of these guys."



L.G. PATTERSON/AP

Missouri head coach Gary Pinkel is hugged by fans after defeating Arkansas 21-14 on Friday. With the win, the Tigers have won 10 games in a season for the fifth time in Pinkel's 14-year tenure.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



No. 2 Wisconsin tops Oklahoma

Kaminsky leads Badgers with 17 points, earns tourney MVP honors

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

PARADISE ISLAND, Bahamas — Frank Kaminsky's trip to the Bahamas was going from bad to worse.

That is, until the big moments arrived.

Kaminsky scored 14 of his 17 points in the second half on the way to tournament MVP honors, Dujie Dukan and Traevon Jackson each added 13 and the second-ranked Badgers beat Oklahoma 69-56 on Friday to win the Battle 4 Atlantis championship.

"I was a little frustrated, to be honest," said Kaminsky, who was 1-for-8 in Thursday's semifinals and limited to 6 minutes in the first half Friday because of foul trouble. "But I realized that it was a close game and I needed to be the best player that I can be for our team to win the game."

Sam Dekker scored 11 and Nigel Hayes finished with 10 for Wisconsin (7-0), which trailed by one late in the first half before a 10-0 run put it on top for good.

Kaminsky grabbed eight rebounds and Jackson had eight assists for the Badgers, who had five players take at least seven shots but no one try more than 12.

"I've been pretty fortunate over my career having players who understand the points-per-possession, because we do it every day at practice," Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan said. "They understand that there's not a trip up and down the floor where we're not trying to do the right

thing. And I think our guys stay in the moment at practice, which then kind of goes over into the games."

Dinjil Walker scored 10 for Oklahoma (4-2), which got nine-point efforts from Isaiah Cousins and native Bahamian Buddy Hield. But Cousins and Hield combined to shoot 5-for-22.

"We know so much more about our club right now than we did three days ago, the goods, bads, everything in between," Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger said. "That's the value of playing in a quality tournament like this."

The Sooners were offensively inconsistent, either sizzling or freezing, and switching gears almost without warning.

■ They started 2-for-10.

■ Then they went 7-for-7.

■ Then they went 2-for-14 over a 10-minute stretch overlapping halftime.

■ And then they went 5-for-6, getting within 57-48 on a jumper by Ryan Spangler with 9:56 left.

The margin was still nine 2½ minutes later, when Kaminsky lined up a three-pointer from the top of the key, watched it fall and strutted back to the other end with an animated, confident look.

"See, that's out of my control," said Kaminsky, who added that he didn't remember his reaction as the room broke into laughter. "Those things kind of just come over me. I kind of black out for a couple seconds and then that happens. I'm not responsible for anything I do after a play like that."

Oklahoma's D.J. Bennett, left, tries to keep control of the ball against Wisconsin's Bronson Koenig during the championship game in the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament at Paradise Island, Bahamas, on Friday. The Badgers won 69-56.

TIM AYLEY/AP

Top 25 roundup

Mississippi finishes strong to upset No. 23 Creighton

The Associated Press

NICEVILLE, Fla. — Jarvis Summers scored 23 points and Mississippi closed with a 12-3 run to beat No. 23 Creighton 75-68 on Friday night in the Emerald Coast Classic.

Summers was 6-for-14 from the field and made 9 of 10 free throws for the Rebels (4-1).

LaDarius White scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half, and Martavious Newby had all nine of his points in the final 2 minutes.

Isaiah Zierden led Creighton (5-1) with 18 points. Austin Chatman added 15, and Devin Brooks had 14.

Mississippi will play Cincinnati on Saturday night, and Creighton will face Middle Tennessee. Cincinnati beat Middle Tennessee 69-51 in the first game.

No. 5 North Carolina 75, No. 18 Florida 64: At Paradise Island, Bahamas, Kennedy Meeks scored 18 points and tied a career high with 13 rebounds, Marcus Paige added 16 points and the Tar Heels built a big early lead to beat the Gators in the fifth-place game at the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Justin Jackson had 12 points for the Tar Heels (5-1), who scored the first 12 points.

No. 22 UCLA 88, UAB 76: Isaac Hamilton scored 21 points and the Bruins salvaged one win out of its trip to the Bahamas by topping the Blazers in the seventh-place game at the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Norman Powell scored 17 points for UCLA (5-2), while Bryce Alford went 11-for-12 from the foul line on his way to a 14-point night.

No. 10 Gonzaga 73, St. John's 66: Domantas Sabonis had 14 points and eight

rebounds to help the visiting Bulldogs beat the Red Storm in the NIT Season Tip-Off championship game.

The 6-foot-10 Sabonis, the son of former NBA center Arvydas Sabonis, was 6-for-6 from the field.

No. 8 Virginia 64, LaSalle 56: At New York, Malcolm Brogdon scored a career-high 20 points to lead the Cavaliers past the Explorers in the Barclays Center Classic semifinals.

Anthony Gill added 16 for Virginia, which improved to 6-0 for the first time since the 2004-05 season. The Cavaliers haven't allowed an opponent to score more than 55 points this season.

No. 11 Kansas 82, Tennessee 67: At Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Perry Ellis scored 24 points, Cliff Alexander added 16 and the Jayhawks beat the Volunteers in an Orlando Classic semifinal.

Frank Mason III had 11 points and seven assists for Kansas (4-1). The Jayhawks will face No. 20 Michigan State in the championship game Sunday.

No. 20 Michigan State 79, Marquette 68: Denzel Valentine had a career-high 25 points and the Spartans beat the Golden Eagles in the Orlando Classic semifinals.

No. 16 Ohio St. 73, James Madison 56: D'Angelo Russell scored 14 points. Sam Thompson had 13 and the host Buckeyes got big contributions from their big men in beating the Dukes.

No. 17 Miami 87, South Alabama 75: Sheldon McClellan had 17 points and the Hurricanes scored the first 23 points in an easy victory over the visiting Jaguars.

No. 25 Arkansas 89, North Texas 73: Michael Qualls scored a career-high 22 points and the host Razorbacks improved to 5-0 for the first time since 2006.

SPORTS



No rust on Russell

Thunder PG scores 32 points
in return from injury | **Page 27**



Arizona safety Anthony Lopez celebrates recovering a fumble for a touchdown against Arizona State on Friday in Tuscon, Ari.

RICK SCUTERI/AP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Dare to dream

Arizona, Mizzou
win, keep playoff
chances alive

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

Arizona and Missouri have playoff hopes. Really? Here's why.

The Wildcats and Tigers locked up spots in their conference championship games Friday. Arizona won a wild Territorial Cup game 42-35 over rival Arizona State, and Missouri beat Arkansas 21-14.

If the Wildcats and/or the Tigers can win their conferences, they would have to be in the mix for a playoff spot.

The Pac-12 title game was set after UCLA lost and Arizona won: A rematch

between Arizona and No. 3 Oregon on Dec. 6 in Santa Clara, Calif.

The Wildcats are 12th in the latest College Football Playoff rankings, which is a long way to climb for coach Rich Rodriguez's team. Not impossible.

SEE ALIVE ON PAGE 29

Insider:

- Cardinal routs No. 9 Bruins, Page 28
- Wildcats earn rematch with No. 2 Oregon, Page 28
- Tigers capture SEC East title, Page 29

Rice wins appeal, eligible for immediate return to play | NFL, Page 25